

MIDDLETOWN
TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
Monmouth County, New Jersey

*Monthly
Messages*

Middletown Township Historical Society: January 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.

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.

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](#)

Looking Back and Ahead

The start of every new year brings about thoughts of hope for what is ahead. That is especially true for 2021. We hope you and your loved ones were able to get through the last year safely, and that 2021 is a healthy and prosperous year for you.

Despite the hardships caused by the pandemic, we were humbled to receive the support of so many of you last year. While some of our plans had to be changed or delayed, the Middletown Township Historical Society accomplished much in 2020. Below are some of the highlights:

- Increased members and their financial contributions
- Launched our interactive [land development map](#) on our website
- Held 6 [Speaker Series events](#) featuring presentations by historians and authors
- Obtained \$1,000 in grants from the Monmouth County Historical Commission and Investors Bank Foundation
- Refreshed the 1964 film "[Roadside Story: Middletown Village Along the King's Highway](#)"
- Launched our [YouTube channel](#), which featured the above film, recordings of select Speaker Series events, and a list of curated videos about Middletown history

In 2021, we will resume our popular Speaker Series (online, at least to start), plan to digitize Middletown Township High School yearbooks, resume our Middletown Memories video interviews, and more. We have also been encouraged by the recent increased participation from our members, which means that more projects can be undertaken or existing ones can be completed quicker.

Thank you for your support from your Board of Trustees:

Thomas Valenti - President

Gail Nelsen - Treasurer

James Hinckley - Secretary

Peter VanNortwick - Trustee

Raymond J. Veth - Trustee

Community Sponsorships Now Available

If you run a local business or organization and would like to support our work, we are now offering you the opportunity to become one of our new Community Sponsors! 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



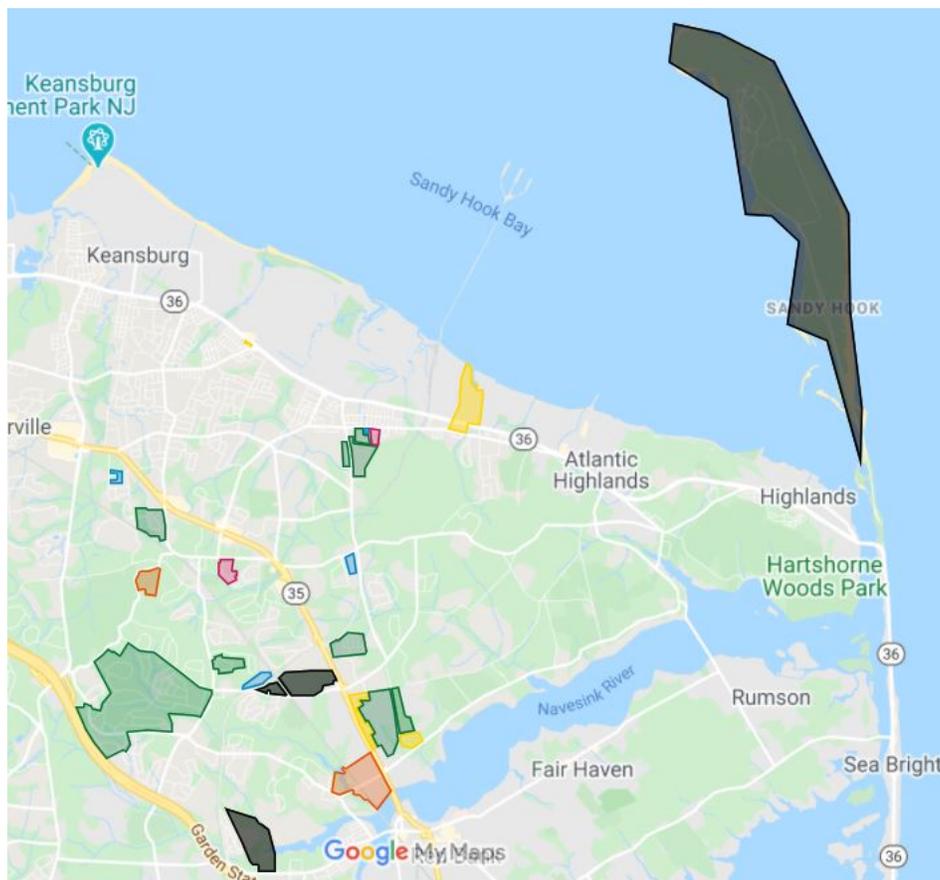
Take A Tour Through Historic Middletown Village with this Film from 1964

The Middletown Township Historical Society is pleased to present a refreshed version of "Roadside Story: Middletown Village Along the King's Highway." This color film was created by the Middletown Camera Club for the town's Tercentenary celebration in 1964. The narrated tour takes you outside and inside some of the most interesting buildings in the Village, including the Franklin Academy, Hartshorne House, Marlpit Hall, Taylor-Butler House (Orchard Home), and more. It runs for nearly 25 minutes and is a treat for those wanting to see the interiors of these historic buildings. [Watch now](#) to experience it, and view how the area looked over 50 years ago.

The film played at local events through the 1970s, but was then largely unseen

until the Middletown Township Landmarks Commission had it transferred to DVD for the town's 350 celebration in 2014. MTHS has now digitally transferred it, reordered and edited some scenes, and added a revised narration that keeps to the spirit of the original. We are grateful to the Middletown Camera Club, Middletown Township Landmarks Commission, and all others who donated their time and knowledge that led to the creation and refreshing of this film.

[Watch Roadside Story](#)



Middletown Land Development Map Updates!

[New Entries Added- Tindall Gardens, Wood's End Village, Westminster Presbyterian Church!](#)

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

Annual Meeting & Election

Our Annual Meeting will take place online on March 15. We'll have a quick presentation about the society that will be followed by the first presentation of our 2021 Speaker Series.

This year, because we will not be able to meet in person, all balloting for our trustees will occur electronically or by mail. You will be able to vote electronically when you [join or renew online](#), or you can do so by mailing in the form that we will be sending to your home later this month (if you do not receive one by February, please let us know). This year's nominees are Peter VanNortwick and Raymond Veth. Both are current trustees and are longtime members.

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:

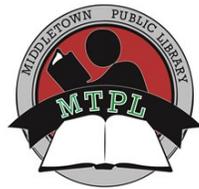
Who owned a thoroughbred horse farm in the township and fought for the Confederates during the Civil War? For extra credit, who inherited another thoroughbred horse farm and attained sporting prominence as owner of a major league baseball team?

Answer will be supplied in next month's newsletter!

Answer to Last Month's Question:

Amory L. Haskell, Master of the Monmouth County Hunt, an organization that used to conduct “drag hunts” with equestrians chasing foxes over the agrarian countryside, organized an event in 1926 that he hosted at his Woodland Farm north of Cooper Road. This became an annual event that changed into a society affair, then a charity fundraiser that attracted thousands among the general public who dined and mingled on the spacious grounds and even watched the steeplechase races that were the formal sporting element of the day. Suspended from 1942-46, the meet resumed and ran through 1995.

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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