

Historic Train Station Updates

The Historic Train Station has been officially accepted as a site on New Jersey's Black Heritage Trail which will “promote awareness and appreciation of Black history, heritage, and culture that will highlight Black heritage sites through historical markers and a trail-like path that connects the stories of Black life and resiliency.”



The Middletown Township Historical Society nominated the station for its decades-long association with Clinton Heath, born a slave and becoming a respected citizen of Middletown, helping establish the Red Hill community and its AME Church. A commemorative sign will be installed in the coming months.

Middletown construction staff are working to complete improvements and repairs in time to celebrate the station’s 150th birthday and our nation's 250th birthday in 2026. It will serve as an exhibit space highlighting Middletown's extensive history.

The 1876 former train station is located in the daily commuter lot across the street from the current Middletown train station. After serving as an active train station for 110 years, it became home to a succession of community organizations.

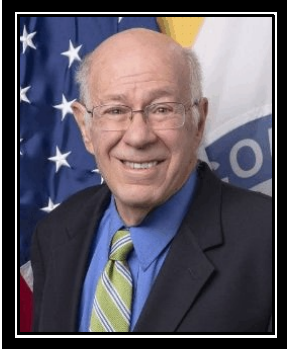
The upcoming Middletown History Museum will feature an exhibit about Middletown during the Revolution, as well as a history of the train station. If you have any colonial-era artifacts to lend or donate for the exhibit, please let us know! Pending renovation completion, May, 2026 is the anticipated opening of the museum.



- To commemorate our nation’s 250 birthday in 2026, the Speaker Series has been expanded to a monthly format and will feature Revolutionary-theme topics during the first half of the year.
- Proudly welcomed 125 new members to the Society.
- Held four speaker events viewed by nearly 900 attendees in-person and online.
- Premiered the latest video episode of Middletown Memories featuring former Police Chief Robert Letts, drawing over 1,000 views.
- Presented our second annual award for Outstanding Contributions to the History of Middletown.
- Moved our archive to a larger temperature-controlled space, allowing for easier research.
- Obtained financial grants from the Montecalvo Family Foundation, Bank of America, and the Monmouth County Historical Commission.
- Historic Train Station selected as a site on New Jersey’s Black Heritage Trail.
- Worked with Middletown Township 250th Anniversary committees.

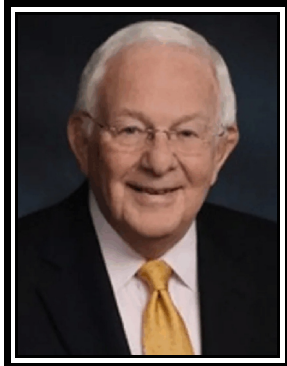
— In Memoriam —

Randall Gabrielan, President Emeritus



Randall Gabrielan was a prolific author and exceptional historian with 49 books primarily about Middletown and Monmouth County. His impact upon our historical record is immense, leaving an indelible mark on our community. For over two decades, Randy served as Middletown Township Historical Society president and recently as advisor for our speaker series, and as Monmouth County Historical Commission Vice Chair.

James Hinckley, Board Secretary



James Hinckley was a kind, loving, and supremely friendly man who loved being around people. He believed in service to others, and throughout his life was continuously involved in numerous civic and service organizations.

Jim served as a Councilman of Hasbrouck Heights, NJ. After moving to Middletown in 1977, he continued public service by serving as Vice Chairman of the Planning Board, Chairman of the Sewage Authority, and Chairman of the Zoning Board. He was active with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and Middletown South band parents. Jim was very proud of his Irish heritage and served on the NYC St. Patrick's Day committee for 30 plus years, and was a member of The Ancient Order of Hibernians and was honored as their 2021 The Man of The Year.



MIDDLETOWN
ARCHIVES

The Middletown Township Historical Society maintains physical and digital archives of documents and items related to the history of Middletown, NJ at MiddletownNJHistory.org.

Currently containing 278 items including high school yearbooks and student publications from 1919, Society newsletters from 1985, Middletown Development Map, as well as original and curated videos. We welcome the addition of artifacts relating to the history of Middletown. Contact us at MiddletownHistory@gmail.com.



At 7:00 pm, Middletown Township Public Library Community Room, 55 New Monmouth Road, Middletown. Some presentations may be simulcast. Check website for details.

- Military Strategies of Washington and Lee at the Battle of Monmouth, Dr. Phillip Papas. February 24.
 - Revolutionary Rivalry: Colonel Tye and Joshua Huddy, Rick Geffken. March 24.
 - Unearthing Revolutionary New Jersey Through Archaeology, Dr. Richard Veit. April 28.
 - Sandy Hook During the Revolution, Todd Braisted. May 27.
 - The British March Through Middletown, Michael Adelberg, June 6 (special date)
 - Divided Loyalties, Dr. Maxine Lurie. July 28.
 - Philip Freneau: Monmouth County's Revolutionary Poet, Dr. Stanley Blair. August 25.
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Visit Our Town Hall Exhibits



In the lobby are displayed a collection of enlarged, captioned Middletown postcards providing historical content. Also on display is a large painting called Scenes Along Kings Highway by Julius Coppola, based on an earlier

work by Glenore "Gay" Coblens.



An original 1851 Map of Monmouth County by surveyor Jesse Lightfoot, donated by June Truex Hoffmire in memory of her father William Truex, is displayed in the Courtroom vestibule.





Middletown Township Historical Society Membership Application
PLEASE LEGIBLY PRINT ALL FIELDS

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ @ _____

Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

- Contribution Amount: \$25.00 (Preferred Level) \$50.00 (Patron Level)
- \$100.00 (Benefactor Level) \$10.00 (General Level) (minimum required for membership)
- \$ _____ (enter any other amount)

Make checks payable to Middletown Township Historical Society and mail to P. O. Box 180, Middletown, NJ 07748. Middletown Township Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) and a NJ Nonprofit Corporation. No goods or services are being made in exchange for your contribution. While such donations are typically tax deductible, please consult a financial advisor for personal determination.

2026 Board of Trustees and Officers

- Thomas Valenti - President
- Peter Van Nortwick - Vice President
- Gail Nelsen - Treasurer
- Tara Berson
- Raymond J. Veth

Volunteer With Us

The Middletown Township Historical Society is looking for people to participate in a variety of volunteer opportunities. Contact us if you are interested/skilled in any of these areas: social media content creation, fund-raising, grant writing, coordinating with the town/county/state 250th birthday initiatives, researching and writing applications for historic registers, or whatever else you can think of! We welcome your time and talents.

