

The Middlebury Historical Society, Inc.

P. O. Box 104

Middlebury, Connecticut 06762-0104

February 2017

Dear Friends,

Your support in the past has meant so much to us and has enabled us to make great strides in our pursuit of Middlebury's history, and we hope you will stay with us by renewing your membership this year.

In addition to items we have collected, we have performed a great deal of research about Middlebury's past. This is not to mention the great advances we are undergoing in computer technology capabilities. We are generating an inventory of all of our holdings, and, at the same time, digitizing what we have so that we can better share it with all of you. Ultimately, all historical society collections will be accessible on the Internet, and the personal benefit all of us gain from knowing about our past will be at our fingertips.

How does an historical society help our community? Real estate agents contact us for information about houses in town; they want to know their histories, architects and other important information, which helps them to sell houses and even adds to their value. Students call about local research projects they are involved in, as well as other citizens wishing to know information about people, places and events. A few local restaurants such as The Maples and Meet Me Here feature old pictures of Middlebury that were chosen from our collections, researched and enhanced by us for rendering in a larger format. Local citizens entrust to us artifacts and images which we endeavor to preserve items that increase our knowledge and understanding of Middlebury's proud and exciting history

A new volunteer has joined us on Fridays and is helping to bring order to our extensive files on Middlebury's history. Some of you have indicated that you are interested in volunteering, and I must apologize that I have fallen behind in contacting interested members and enlarging our volunteer corps. I promise to do better in the new year.

This year we are concentrating our efforts on collecting information on our World War I veterans and writing about them. If you have anything that might help our efforts such as letters, pictures or items, please let us know. We are also ordering our file cabinets and our computer files, including documents and images, and indexing and scanning important holdings.

Finally, we are once again focusing on the Peck-Nichols House, collaborating with the town and the Land Trust and assisting local residents in ways that may give promise to our mutual desire to save and restore it.

Since we receive no funding from the town, our only source of income is you, those who cherish our town – its natural beauty, its people, structures and history. Thank you for your continued generosity.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to let us know. Thanks for your invaluable support!

Sincerely,

Robert L. Rafford, president

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