



# *Notes from the Academy*

SPRING 2023 | VOL. 5 NO. 1

## From the Desk of the President



As the daffodils and crocuses start showing their heads, we turn our thoughts to new beginnings. In 2023, the Society started new regular open hours, the 1st Friday and 3rd Saturday of the month from 1-4 pm. We hope these open hours will make the Society more accessible to our visitors. We also look forward to opening two new exhibitions. The first will be an art show with students from the Appoquinimink High School. It will reflect the experiences of the Hawkins family who escaped from slavery in Maryland and were helped to freedom by Middletown's John Hunn and others in the 1840s. The second will focus on the larger topic of the Underground Railroad and the participation of those living in and around Middletown. Please watch the monthly program email for updates on these exhibition openings. We hope to see you on-site soon!

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## Internship at MHS

The internship bridges the theory students learn in their school programs and builds practical skills and experience. The intern focuses on a project that will give them significant experience in the workplace. This is a hybrid virtual/in-person internship. The total hours are 150 spread over 10 weeks. The student shall complete 3 small online exhibitions for the Society's website focused on research drawn from the orientation exhibition. Onsite work will include working with the collection on cataloging, rehousing, and database entry into PastPerfect for the historic artifact collections and assisting with the de-installation and installation of a permanent exhibition. This internship is offered to undergraduate students. For more information visit our [website](#).





# Upcoming Programs

**April 7th, 1-4 pm:** Middletown Historical Society Museum open hours. Free

**April 15th, 1-4 pm:** Middletown Historical Society Museum open hours. Free

**April 18th, 7:30 pm:** Monthly public program: Bruce Bendler, 'All Roads Lead to Middletown'. Road construction in the very early 1800s connected Middletown with port and transportation facilities in Delaware and nearby Maryland. Free

**May 5th, 1-4 pm:** Middletown Historical Society Museum open hours. Free

**May 16th, 7:30 pm:** Monthly public program: Research Paper Awards. Hear excerpts from our research paper contestants.

**May 20th, 1-4 pm:** Middletown Historical Society Museum open hours. Free





## A BIRTHDAY DANCE

In honor of her birthday Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Jones gave a delightful dance for their daughter, Miss Helen Jones, at their home on North Broad street, Wednesday evening. The evening was pleasantly spent by a large number of her young friends in playing games and dancing. Refreshments consisting of brick cream, cake, fruits and mints were served, and Miss Jones was the recipient of numerous handsome and useful gifts. Those present were: Misses Lena Weber, Viola Weber, Mary Beaston, Hannah Kirk, Clara Gallagher, Mary Culver, Helen Jones, Jennie Gallagher, Ruth Lloyd, Odel Gallagher, Edna Brynes, Marian Daniels, Nellie Otwell, Ruby Whitlock, Bertha Reed, Addie Whitlock, Geraldine McDonagh, Edith Eliason, of Wilmington; Buelah Travers, of Easton, Md.; Messrs. Harry Vinyard, James Carpenter, Osborne Banning, Comegys, Cosden, Allen Evans, Courtlandt Jones, William Kirk, Leslie Truitt, Lemont Jones, Earle Cleaver, Herbert Pyle, Joseph Bryson, Nelson Neff, William Bryson, Harry Price, John Spicer and Samuel McDonagh.

*Middletown Transcript*, September 9th, 1916

A description of the Historical Society's ball follows.



# The Birthday Ball

"We could have danced all night!"

Dancers and lovers of history once again enjoyed Middletown's annual Birthday Ball in February! The dancers were attired elegantly in their dresses and suits and the enjoyment of the evening was complete. We welcomed around 60 guests and volunteers to the event with about a third being new to the ball and historical dance. The event was held at the Jean Birch Senior Center. Many thanks to Drew and Linda Harting for all their work in carrying off such a lovely evening. We look forward to continuing to host this program!



# Volunteer for the Peach Festival

The peach trees will blossom soon and so will thoughts of the Annual Olde Tyme Peach Festival. The festival will be held on the third Saturday, August 19th, 2023.

Volunteers for the Society at the Old Academy help out by taking a two-hour shift between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. If you can help, there are a number of jobs to choose from. Please call or text Alison Matsen at 302-740-5544.

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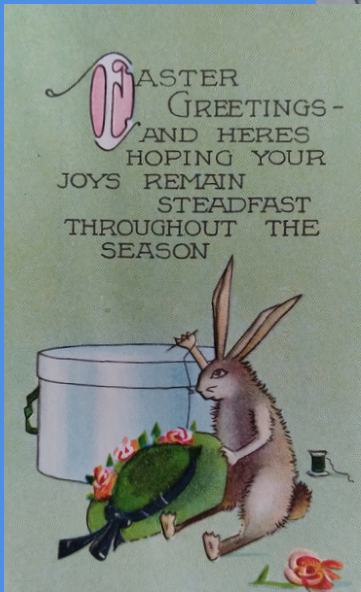
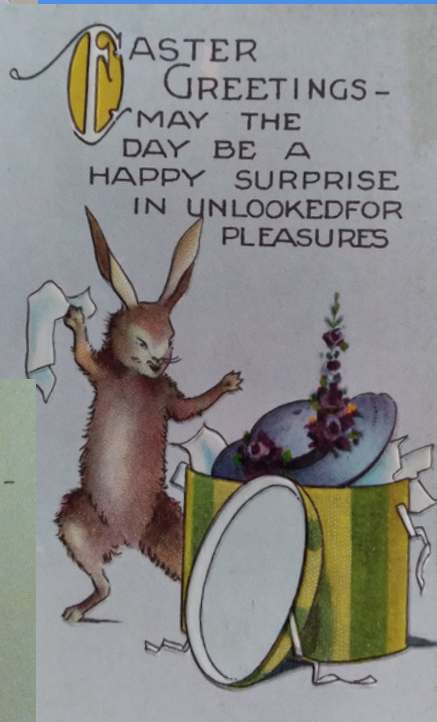
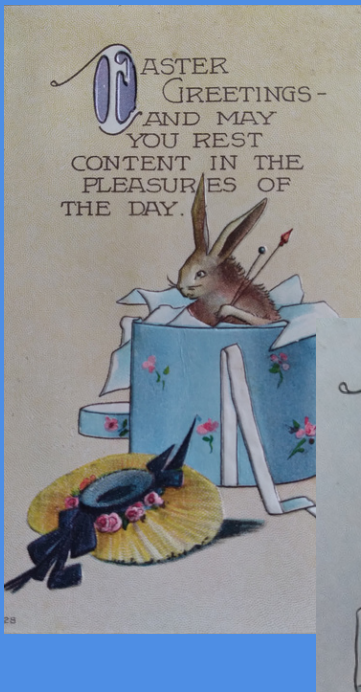
The Society also welcomes a number of junior volunteers from local high schools. These volunteers have helped with historic artifact cataloging, data entry, collection rehousing, and the design and installation of exhibitions in the museum. We welcome volunteers of all ages to participate in many different areas of the Society, from community collaborations, care of our historical collections, outreach programs, and implementation of exhibitions. To volunteer, please email the Society at [mhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:mhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)





# From the Collection

The old Middletown Post Office, 25 W. Main Street, pictured below, was built and opened on December 1, 1922, in response to a fire that burned down the Opera House and older Post Office earlier in the year. While new technologies like the telephone gave people more ways to communicate, letters and special occasion cards were still important for staying in touch. Cards similar to these Easter Cards would have been sent during the holidays. Be sure to visit the Society when it's open to see our exhibit on the Post Office in Teens on the Town.



Easter Cards  
Early 20th Century  
Private Collection



Middletown Post Office  
1927  
Collection of Middletown  
Historical Society

## Contact Us

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**Open first Friday and third  
Saturday from 1-4 pm**

By appointment call Alison Matsen  
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The Middletown Historical Society  
collects, preserves, educates, and  
encourages the development of  
Middletown's history in order to foster  
historic awareness and pride in our  
community.