

## *Society Mission Statement*

*It is the mission of the Society to collect, preserve, disseminate, and encourage the development of knowledge of local history in order to strengthen individual and community historic awareness and pride. This mission will be accomplished by creating and maintaining a museum which fosters research and preservation of local history and artifacts; by creating and maintaining a library of written, oral and visual materials concerning the community; by championing the identification, protection and preservation of historic, architectural and natural assets of the community; by monitoring local town and county historic zoning and regulatory codes; and by creating and executing programs which support the mission.*

## *Museum and Facilities*

The Middletown Historical Society focuses on Middletown's history. To increase public awareness of our rich heritage and the important role the area has played in Delaware history, the Board of Directors has established a Museum and sponsors educational lectures. In the past few years the Board has initiated many new improvements, including

- ...renovating the first floor Museum exhibit gallery for the new two-year exhibit *Middletown Goes to War*
- ...installing ultraviolet filters on lighting and windows to protect artifacts
- ...installing a state-of-the art security system
- ...establishing a Research Room to provide staff-assisted access to the Society's collections, including having the Delaware

- Public Archives' master microfilm copy of the Middletown *Transcript* (1868 to 1990) scanned into a searchable database on the Research Room computer, a library of Middletown area books, and topical area history files and research catalog
- ...establishing a website, a blog, and a Facebook page
- ...providing research assistance and dozens of photographs for the Images of America book, *Middletown*
- ...hiring a part-time historian to re-write the Society's walking tours, work with and advise on our collections and archives, coordinate interns, establish the Research Room, and upgrade equipment such as computers

## *Past / Present*

*Since its founding in 1985, the Society has hosted historic house tours in Middletown, as well as lectures on the history of Middletown. In addition we have presented authentic historic clothing displays, recreations of Victorian Christmas scenes at Christmas in Odessa and several holiday window displays in the former Berkman Variety Store.*

*The Middletown Historical Society is responsible for hosting the annual Olde-Tyme Peach Festival, a tradition started in 1993. The goal of this festival is to increase awareness of the important role peaches played in the formation of present day Middletown while providing an inexpensive, enjoyable family outing right here in Middletown.*

*As important as all of these endeavors are, we cannot do it alone. If preserving Middletown's history is important to you, why not join us? Together we can make a difference.*

*Current as of 8/14*

## *Middletown Historical Society*

Founded 1985

**Annual Dues:**  
\$10.00 Individual  
\$20.00 Family

**Checks Payable To:**  
Middletown Historical Society  
PO Box 567  
Middletown, DE 19709

**Phone: 378-7466**

**[www.middletowndehistory.com](http://www.middletowndehistory.com)**

## *ENROLLMENT FORM*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*We will not share your personal information!*

## *Meetings*

Monthly, every third Tuesday (except in December, January, July and August) at 7:30 P.M. at the Old Academy Building, 218 North Broad Street. As with every organization, its strength is in its membership.

## *The Middletown Historical Society Offers*

...a staff-assisted, research room containing a growing collection of local artifacts, historical documents and photographs via our Research Room and Library

...a fully-searchable database of the *Middletown Transcript* and *New Era* newspapers from 1868-1990

...two-floors of museum exhibits about historic Middletown

...frequent lectures and living history events on Middletown history

We applaud those who take an interest in preserving their historic local properties and pledge to support them in their efforts. Our goal is to offer assistance to those taking on such a task.

## *Did you know?*

...that Middletown was once the leading producer of peaches in the State of Delaware? Between 1850 and the last quarter of the nineteenth century, before a peach blight devastated the local orchards, Middletown was known as the peach center of Delaware. Many of the mansions east and west of Middletown, particularly in the area known as the "Levels", are known as "Peach Mansions", as living testimony to the industry's success here.

...that Middletown was home to three governors of Delaware? Joshua Clayton, 1789 to 1796; John Polk Cochran, 1875 to 1879; and Benjamin Thomas Biggs, 1887 to 1891.

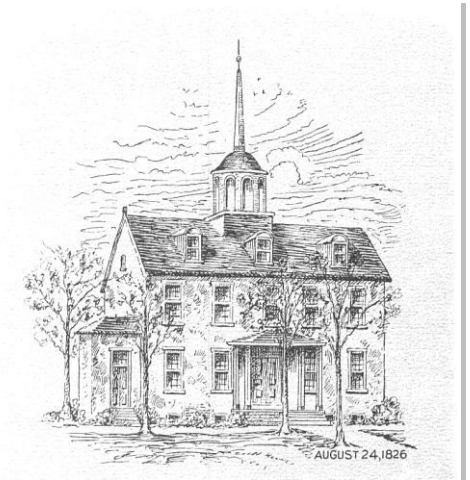
... that the name Middletown originated from its position as the midpoint in the overland trade route from ships docking at Cantwell's Bridge (Odessa) and ships landing on the Bohemia River?

...that from 1903 to 1908, a trolley line ran through the center of Main Street, between Middletown and Odessa, linking Middletown's rail lines with Odessa's passenger steamer lines?

... that Middletown was one of the first towns in Delaware to provide electrified street lights? On August 17, 1886, 10-candlepower electric lights were installed.

*Like us on Facebook!*

# *Middletown Historical Society*



Old Academy Building c.1826

## *Celebrate Our History!*