

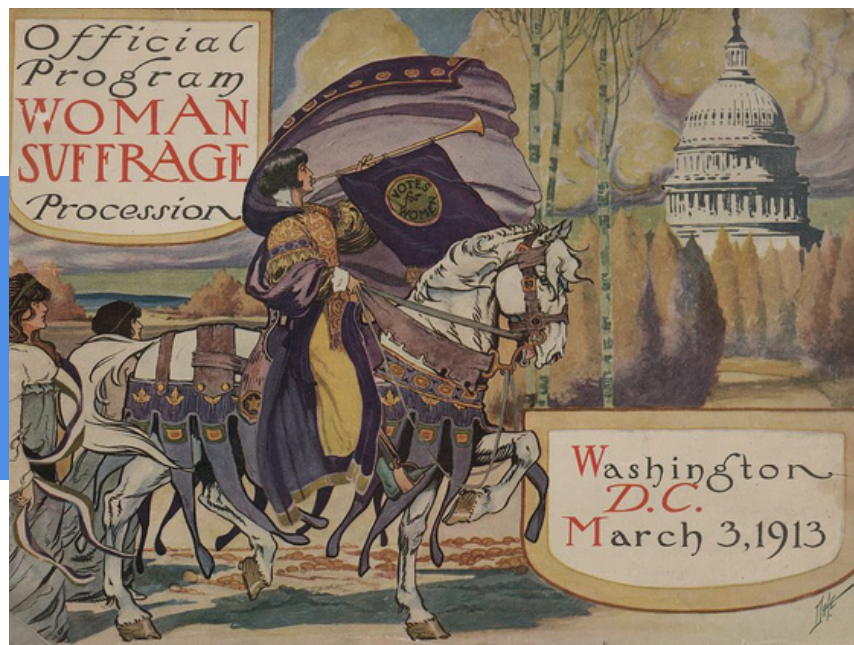
# Notes from the Academy

FEBRUARY 2020 | VOL. 2 NO. 1

## Up Coming Events and Programs!

**February 18th:** Monthly Public Program, 7:30 pm, Free

Mike Dixon presents the history of the expansion of suffrage as it lays out arguments made by both sides in the hotly debated subject. Particular attention will be paid to women's suffrage, a time when Delaware was on the front line of the controversial debate.



**March 17th:** Monthly Public Program, 7:30 pm, Free

Middletown commissioned, Col. G. Thornton begins with the history of women in the military up to the time she joined the Army. She then explains the policy changes that enabled integration of women into the Army. The last third of her presentation is her personal story and how history and policy impacted her as she rose to the rank of Colonel.

## Highlights in this Issue

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From the Desk of the President  
I have always enjoyed history.

From the historical architecture to the many stories which make up history, I find it fascinating. That's why I'm so excited that we'll be unveiling our formalized oral history program later this year.

What better way to preserve our town's history than hearing it first hand from people who lived it!

History has long been passed down orally. It was with the invention of recording devices that oral history took on a democratic power. Follow our journey with oral histories in future issues of *Notes from the Academy*!



# The Middletown Transcript.

1.

MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1895.

The First Dance of the Season Given by the Social Club, Thursday January 3rd, 1895  
The ball given in the Opera House by the Young Men's Social Club on Thursday night was a brilliant affair. It was by no means a crush; the absence of the large number of strangers who usually frequent these balls, was noted, and a large majority of those present were of this community, or are visitors here. There was an unusual number of extremely pretty gowns, and the ladies were all very becomingly and for the most part modestly attired. At 9 o'clock the dancing began to the strains of a beautiful waltz rendered by Price's Orchestra, and with but little intermission the rhythm of music and motion continued until 3 o'clock, when "Home Sweet Home" warned the gay revelers that the ball was over. Refreshments were served by the popular cuisiner and caterer, Chandler Wright, at about midnight. The participants agree that it was a "most exquisite ball." It was the first of the season, and the young men did their best to make it a popular and pleasing social event. The floor managers were Dr. J. C. Stites, F. B. Watkins, J. P. Cochran Jr., G. L. Townsend. The patronesses were Mrs. J. P. Cochran, Jr., blue silk and chiffon with pearls; Mrs. W. B. Biggs, blue crepe; and Mrs. N. J. Williams. Among those from Middletown who participated in the dance were: Mrs. A. M. Brown, red crepe and satin; Miss Bessie Reynolds, pink bengaline; Miss Allie McKee, pink silk, a very beautiful and becoming gown; Miss Agnes Lockwood, blue silk; Miss Lydia Cochran, green silk, with net, very pretty; Mary Patton Cochran, pink crepe; Miss Hester Jones, black silk and chiffon; Miss May Holton, lavender moire, and chiffon, a beautiful gown; Mrs. Prettyman, white bengaline; Continues on next page

Miss Bessie Boyer, blue and white taffeta with pearls, a very handsome and becoming costume; Mrs. H. B. McDowell, brown silk with velvet, Miss Edith Reynolds, red cashmere and velvet; Miss Mabelle Parvis, striped silk; Miss Blanche Cochran, white silk; Miss Ada Cochran, blue silk; Miss May Clayton, Pink tulle; Miss Della Clayton, White silk and green velvet; Miss Mary Cochran, yellow silk; Miss Edith Derrickson, blue and black chiffon; Miss Helen Naudain, white tulle; Mr. and Mrs. John Cochran, Galena; Miss Shock, of Washington, D. C. white silk and chiffon, an extremely pretty costume; Miss Laura Warren, of Philadelphia, yellow silk with magenta velvet; Miss Mazie Townsend, Camden, Del., green mulle with accordion pleats, Edna Henry, Newark Del. white silk, with chiffon; Miss Burdella Davis, white bengaline and lace; Miss Hurlock, Massey's Md. Blue bengaline, Miss Woodall, Georgetown, black brocade, Miss Colbourne, Philadelphia, pink silk and chiffon; Miss Anna Cheairs, Delaware City, blue tulle; Mrs. Dennis McCaulley, white silk, Miss Schofield, Still Pond, black organdie; Miss Daisy Naudain, Wilmington, blue silk; Miss Hanway, Philadelphia, white silk, with green velvet; Miss Amelia Hanway, flowered organdie; Miss Parrott, Still Pond, white silk, Miss Sadie Wright, Cambridge, green faille. Messrs. W. R. Reynolds, J. P. Cochran, Jr., A. M. Brown, Dr. Stites, W. B. Biggs, Edward Vaughan, W. G. Lockwood, C. R. Clayton, Grey Taylor, Robert Cochran, R. A. Comegys, Edwin Prettyman, Dr. McDowell, E. R. Cochran, Jr., Wilson Cochran, J. C. C. Kelley, Middletown; Davis Brown and Charles Wharton, Smyrna; Robert Pennington, Mr. Newman, Mr. Dreir, Wilmington; Mr. Trenchard, Church Hill; Mr. Cooch, Mr. McVey; Newark; Mr. Culbreth, Dover; Mr. Davis, Milford.



Dancing has always been a part of Middletown's history. From dance academies in the 1800s to proms in the present, dance has brought people together. Be sure to celebrate Middletown's Birthday at our annual Birthday Day Ball on February 22nd!

Date: February 22nd, Doors open at 6 pm at the Jean Birch Senior Center.

Pre-event tickets are \$17 for Students and Seniors, and \$20 for general admission. At the door tickets are a flat \$25. Send your ticket money to 202 N. Broad St. Middletown, DE 19709

Modern dressy clothes and historic attire appropriate. Previous dance experience not required as dances will be taught before each dance





## A New Piece in the Collection!

By Alison Matsen

The watercolor shows Anderson Street, with the Stafford grain store in the background. The store later became the Premiere Center for the Arts. The watercolor is by Harry Labour, (1902-1984), who was born in Pennsylvania, and graduated from the Philadelphia School of Industrial Arts. He was a shop teacher at Middletown High School from the 1940's through the 1960's. He taught at St. Andrews School in the 1970's. He loved to paint in his spare time, and won several awards from the Wilmington Art Guild. The Middletown Historical Society bought the painting in 2019 for its permanent collection from a private collector. The Society re-matted the watercolor.





Interpretation is a word that lots of museum professionals use. For many years there was a lack of consensus as to what the word meant. Those who come from the naturalist and parks community had evolved an understanding of interpretation as a form of communication. They formalized their understanding of interpretive work starting in 1967 with the publication of Freedman Tilman's "Interpreting our Heritage". In the museum community interpretation has frequently been defined similarly to the work that language interpreters do, taking ideas and objects and communicating their meanings to the public. In 2006, the National Association for Interpretation facilitated a Definitions project to help bring clarity to our cultural and visitor serving organizations. That project included representatives for many different cultural, visitor serving, and history focused organizations. The American Alliance of Museums and the American Association for State and Local History had representatives involved throughout the process. From that process the following definition of interpretation was clarified: A mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in the resource. Interpretation organizes the curator, exhibition designer, or marketing specialist and allows them to make POETRY in all facets of their work at an historical society or museum. Meaning that interpretation is:

Purposeful  
Organized  
Entertaining  
Thematic  
Relevant  
You

All of this meaning that after the Mission the Historical Society has created an interpretation plan to guide our programs and exhibitions in the coming years. This plan adopts the following theme to guide our programmatic and exhibition planning and implementation:

*Over time, people from diverse perspectives shaped Middletown through their interests and experiences.*



Contact Us!

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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.