



# *Notes from the Academy*

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## Re-Opening at the Historical Society

The Historical Society is pleased to announce that we are planning to reopen to the public on July 17th. Please see below for procedures for visiting the society.

### **Personal Protective Equipment:**

- Staff will be required to wear facial coverings and frequently wash their hands.
- Guests are required to wear facial coverings.

### **Social Distancing:**

- We promote a healthy 6-foot social distance wherever possible.

### **Increased Sanitation:**

- We will be disinfecting high-contact surfaces every 2 hours, such as restrooms, door handles, railings, and exhibition cases.
- All touchable interactive materials have been removed from the museum.

### **Visiting:**

- All admission to the museum will be by appointment only
- Appointments for self guided tours or to use the research room will be available Fridays 10 am- 4 pm.
- You can make an appointment by calling: (302)-740-5845 or (302)-378-8265 or emailing: Alison Matsen at [dmatsen@verizon.net](mailto:dmatsen@verizon.net)
- To maintain safety of our guests a staff member will let you into the building.
- When you arrive at the museum please call to be let in:  
(302)-378-7466 or  
(302)-740-5544 or  
(302)-740-5845.

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## From the Desk of the President

In our last newsletter we wrote of events, programs, research being done, and all the plans we had. Unfortunately, none could have foreseen the rapid changes that happened globally. Yet, the society has persevered over the last months providing special at-home content, from cooking to a coloring book! The cover to our coloring book is Greenlawn, also known as the old Brady House. The attempt to save that building was the impetus that started the Middletown Historical Society.

As we look to the future we wish to highlight the work that our staff and intern will be doing this summer and fall. We will be unveiling a new exhibition in November about the fight for the right to vote for women, and how Middletown and Delaware women contributed. As we venture into the world of online exhibitions, our first will be an extension of our "People and Peaches" exhibition which highlights the success of Samuel Jones, an African-American farmer. We look forward to seeing you on site!



# Resources on the Website

During Stay At Home, we've offered different resources to keep our supporters engaged with Middletown's history and the arts in general.

We have a special page on our [website](#), a series of cooking [videos](#) on YouTube from a recipe book from our collection, and we released a [coloring book](#)!

Please check out these different resources and be sure to share with us if you've colored one of the historic houses or cooked one of the recipes!





Marie Lockwood  
Wilmington Evening Journal, August 2, 1919

# Marie Lockwood and the Right to Vote

Marie T. Lockwood was born February 28, 1872. Her father, George W. Lockwood, owned Fair Oaks, a prosperous farm near Warwick, Maryland, where he raised peaches and sheep. After her father's death in 1902, Marie, her mother Adelaide Morton Lockwood, and five younger siblings left the farm, moving to Middletown, where she lived the rest of her life.

Lockwood had a long and successful career as a public health nurse. She was educated in Philadelphia, attending nursing school at the Philadelphia Orthopaedic Hospital and Infirmary for Nervous Diseases and studying social work at the Pennsylvania School for Social Services. She applied this training to her work at Middletown's New Century Club. The Middletown Transcript lists several educational sessions on children's healthcare as part of the education program put together by the New Century Club. Miss Lockwood's name is often listed with these sessions.

Marie and her mother Adelaide, were members of a branch of the Congressional Union formed in Middletown and both attended the inaugural meeting of the Delaware Congressional Union, held at Wilmington's Hotel Du Pont in March 1916. Marie was elected vice-chair of the New Castle County branch.

By spring, 1920, the 19th amendment had passed the House and Senate and been ratified by 35 states. Just one more was needed for ratification. Hoping to make Delaware the final state, Delaware's suffragists organized to lobby the governor to call a special session of the legislature (the General Assembly having adjourned in June 1919) and then to press the special session, meeting from March to June 1920, to ratify the amendment. Marie Lockwood was elected chair of the ratification committee of the Delaware National Woman's Party. When Lockwood and a delegation of suffragists called on the pro-suffrage Governor John G. Townsend Jr., asking him to call a special session, they argued that "... the womanhood of this state has a right to look to its own Governor and its own legislature for their own enfranchisement under the Federal amendment." Despite the efforts of Delaware suffragists, the special session of the General Assembly adjourned in June 1920 without ratifying the amendment.

Research provided by Janet Lindenmuth, Mary Alice Aguilar and Alison Matsen.

# Research Paper Competition



Winners of the 2019 Research Paper Competition

The Middletown Historical Society announces its 2020 historical research paper competition for any middle school or high school students living in the Appoquinimink School District. The Society's Board of Directors has budgeted \$3,500 for the winners of the competition, and up to that amount will be paid to winners in cash awards. Continued on next page.

# Research Paper Competition

This year's topic is a continuation of last year's: research a person or family for whom a street in Middletown is named. Street names that may be used are Anderson, Berkman, Cochran, Cox, Crawford, Fields Court, Green, Hoffecker, Lockwood, and Wood. Final rules for the contest have been posted on the Society's [website](#).

The selection committee for the awards is comprised of social studies and language teachers, librarians, and officers of the Society, who will judge the papers based on grade level of the writer, factual information, proper citations, difficulty and depth of research, writing mechanics, illustrations, and telling of the story. These factors will also be posted on the Society website. Judges have the discretion to determine the number of winners and the dollar amount of each award. Past awards have ranged from \$1000 to \$1500 for first place, \$750 to \$1000 for second, \$500 to \$750 for third, and \$50 for honorable mentions.

Interested students must contact the Museum Coordinator, Alison Matsen at [dmatsen@verizon.net](mailto:dmatsen@verizon.net), or 302-378-8265 and schedule an appointment to register for the contest. All entries will be on a name-blind basis, with judges not knowing the names of the authors.

Required COVID-19 protocols will be followed at the museum during the contest. The Historical Society has substantial files, information and staff that will help the students; we strongly urge them to make use of these resources.

Paper and electronic copies of the entries, 1,500 to 2,500 words in length, must be received in the Historical Society office by Saturday, October 17. Winners will be notified and must attend the November 17 award ceremony at the Society. Questions may be directed to David Matsen, [dmatsen@verizon.net](mailto:dmatsen@verizon.net).



## A New Piece in the Collection!

By Alison Matsen

Oil Painting of Margaret Ann Duryea pictured above

We have had such an influx of people from other states moving to Middletown in the past couple decades that we tend to think of it as a recent phenomenon. But even in past centuries people came here from other states, often bringing family heirlooms with them.

One such family was the Duryeas, from Long Island, NY. When Henry Simon Duryea (1855-1922) moved to this area in the late 1800's, he brought the portraits of his parents and his sister, who is shown here sitting on a sofa. The sister was Margaret Ann Duryea, who was born in 1853 and died in 1857, shortly after this beautifully rendered oil on canvas was done. This portrait hung in the Warwick, Maryland area, then in Middletown for years, most recently on Crawford Street in the home of Louise Duryea Buckworth, a great-niece of the girl pictured in the portrait. Louise married James Stafford, who had the feed store on Anderson Street. (a watercolor of that store is also in our collection and was featured in the last newsletter).

The portraits of this little Duryea girl and her parents were bought at auction in Middletown, then hung for years in a local home, and have recently been purchased by the Middletown Historical Society. This sweet and sensitive portrait is in its original 19th century oval gilt frame. The artist is unknown.

The Duryea family is largely buried in Forest Cemetery on the north side of Middletown.



## Historical Society Welcomes New Intern

Charlotte O'Shaughnessy is a History and Museum Studies graduate student at the University of Delaware. She has been involved with various historic sites and cultural organizations for the past ten years working with collections management, historical interpretation, educational programming, and exhibitions. Her work has included positions at Valley Forge National Historical Park, Fort Delaware State Park, and Winterthur Museum. She is eager to share her passion for collections and educational engagement through her virtual internship at Middletown Historical Society this summer.



Dear Peach Festival Attendees,

It has been decided to that we will not hold our Annual Middletown Olde-Tyme Peach Festival for 2020. Our festival takes months of planning and with so much uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, it just cannot be done.

The Middletown Historical Society continues to meet virtually. We are coming up with some ideas to continue our sale of peach desserts, tee-shirts, and peaches (with our coveted bags) for the month of August. Please lookout for future announcements.

Thank you for your understanding during this time. Stay safe, keep well, and have a peachy summer!

Sincerely,  
 Brian Rickards  
 Peach Festival Chairman



At the age of 24, Walter Wiest, a local resident, died due to mustard gas exposure during World War I. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of his death, flowers were laid at his grave in Old Drawyers Cemetery by Museum Coordinator, Alison Matsen. Sgt. Wiest died May 31st, 1920.

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.