



Notes from the Academy

NOVEMBER 2020 | VOL. 2 NO. 3

From the Desk of the President

Quarantine Lifted

Satisfied that the influenza epidemic has abated to such an extent as to make it safe, both the State Board of Health and the Wilmington City Board of Health, at special meetings held Thursday afternoon, decided to lift the quarantine established early this month on Sunday morning. This action will allow the churches to open for services on Sunday and the schools, theatres, saloons and other public places that have been closed Monday morning. The health authorities were of the opinion that the churches should be the first to re-open.

Middletown Transcript, Oct. 26th 1918

Much like previous generations of Middletonians, we are living through uncertain times. The Historical Society has been working on a number of projects that hopefully will bring a sense of normalcy to our lives. This November, when you go to vote, you'll be celebrating with women throughout the history of the United States who won enfranchisement 100 years ago with the ratification of the 19th amendment in 1920. To that end, this issue focuses on 3 women from the Middletown and Townsend areas

who worked on getting the right to vote for all women. We're also celebrating this important occasion with an exhibition called the "Big Shebang: Who and What They Fought For". This is a first for the Historical Society in that it is a collaboration with the art students of the Appoquinimink High School and The Gibby. Please read on to see all the different things your Society has been doing!

Highlights in this Issue

From the Desk of the President

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Upcoming Programs

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MOT Suffragists

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New Online Exhibtions

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Suffrage Scavenger Hunt

~

Driving Tour

Upcoming Programs

Research Paper Awards Ceremony

Join us via Facebook Live for the award ceremony for the Society's Historical Research Paper competition. This year's students have continued to expand upon the history of Middletown's street names, linking past and present through 9 papers. The ceremony will be held on November 17th times to be announced. A Facebook account is not required to view the livestream. Visit our page [here](#) to attend.

The Big Shebang Exhibition Opening

Join us in celebration of our opening a new exhibition "The Big Shebang: Who and What They Fought For". This exhibition commemorates the work of Middletonians and Delawareans in the fight for the vote through art created by students at Appoquinimink High School and in partnership with the Gibby. A socially distanced opening will be held at the Historical Society and The Gibby on Saturday, November 14th, details to follow.



Suffrage Rally, Dover, DE, May 1920

Marie Lockwood

February 28th, 1872—October 2nd, 1956

Born in Cecil County, MD,

Moved to Middletown, DE

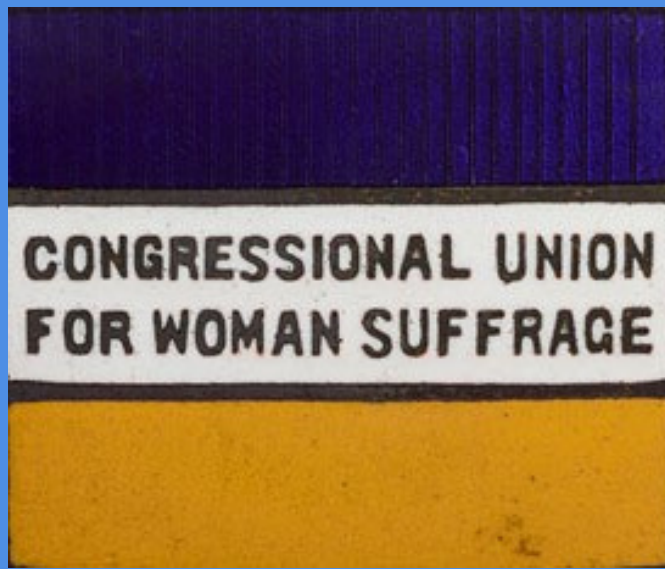
Activism in Middletown and Delaware

Born near Warwick, Maryland, Marie Lockwood became a Middletown resident after her father's death in 1902. She received medical schooling and training in Philadelphia and had an illustrious nursing career in Delaware. Lockwood was also an active local suffrage leader. In 1914, Lockwood hosted a "suffrage parlor tea" in her home on Cass Street in Middletown, which she advertised in the *Middletown Transcript*.

Prominent Delaware suffragist Florence Bayard Hilles spoke at this teatime gathering. Two years later, Lockwood participated in the organizing meeting for the New Castle County branch of the Congressional Union at the Hotel duPont in Wilmington. At this meeting, she was elected as one of two vice-chairmen for Middletown. During Delaware's fight for ratification from 1919 to 1920, Marie Lockwood served as chair of the Delaware National Women's Party Ratification Committee.



Photo Credit: August 2nd, 1919, Wilmington Evening Journal



Mary Hutchin

February 13th, 1875—1940s

Born in Dover, DE, moved to Middletown, DE

Activism in Middletown and Delaware

Mary Hutchin was born in Dover, Delaware on February 13, 1875. The daughter of Reverend William and Elizabeth (Reedy) Hutchin, Hutchin was brought up in a home that encouraged her interest in music and education. She trained at the New England Conservatory of Music on the piano and opened her own piano studio in Middletown around 1902. Hutchin soon became a recognizable figure in the local community. She participated in many committees and charitable works with the New Century Club, serving as its president from 1908 to 1909. Hutchin worked alongside fellow Middletown suffragist Marie Lockwood in the New Century Club and in the Middletown Chapter of the Congressional Union, which organized in 1916. Her work during the fight for ratification was on the ground as she prepared for rallies, called on people within her sphere of influence, and carried on the generally undocumented work of a grassroots movement.

At this time the Society does not have a photograph of Hutchin.

Photo: Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage Logo, 1910, Library of Congress

Anne May Beauchamp Reynolds Wedler

1884—1970

Born in Townsend, DE

Activism in Dover, DE

During Delaware's difficult battle over ratification of the 19th Amendment, Anne May Beauchamp Reynolds Wedler served on the Legislative Committee of the Delaware Equal Suffrage Association, a NAWSA affiliate. In the first half of 1920, Dover became a center of campaigns both for and against women's suffrage. In their efforts to convince the Delaware state legislature to consider the suffrage amendment, Anne May Reynolds Wedler and dozens of other grassroots suffrage workers carried on necessary daily work. The Legislative Committee counted votes and calmed the fears of hesitant legislators. While Delaware tabled the vote on the 19th Amendment until after 1920, Wedler turned her abilities for organizing towards preparing newly enfranchised women for the Federal election in 1920. Her volunteerism and advocacy is a model for citizenship today. On April 28th, 1920, Wedler attended a suffrage rally in Odessa.

The Society does not currently have a photograph of Wedler.

Photo credit: postcard, 1910, National American Woman Suffrage Association





Silent Sentinels Picketing the White House, 1917, Library of Congress

New Virtual Exhibitions!

During these times we know that you may not be able to physically visit the Society. To help extend our exhibitions beyond our physical site, the Society has created two new online exhibitions. They are: [“The Big Shebang: Middletown and Women’s Suffrage”](#) and [“People and Peaches”](#), a virtual version of our in house exhibition.

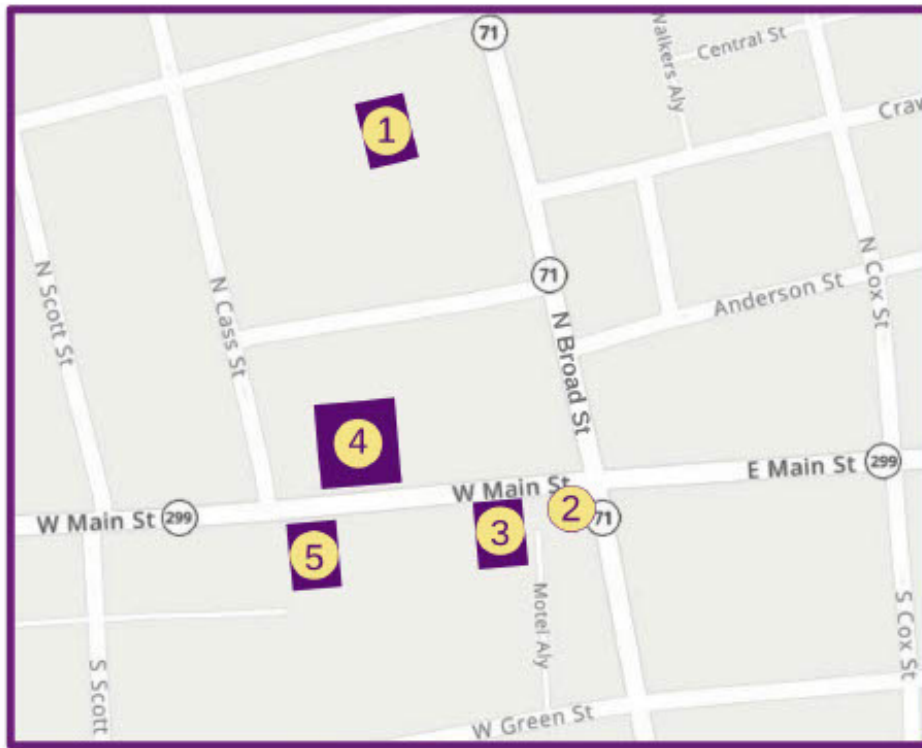


Suffrage About Town Scavenger Hunt

Middletown suffragists gathered throughout town for rallies and meetings. Visit some of these sites yourself! Grab a picture or a selfie at your favorite stops.

Tag us @middletowndehistory and use #suffrageshebang.

Enjoy your scavenger hunt through historic Middletown!



- 1 Middletown Academy/Middletown Historical Society** (Starting Point)
216 N. Broad Street, Middletown, DE 19709
- 2 World War I Memorial at Four Corners**
Intersection of Broad Street and Main Street
- 3 Witherspoon Tavern/Middletown Hotel**
(Now Sully's Irish Pub at the Witherspoon)
12 W. Main Street, Middletown, DE 19709
- 4 Middletown Opera House**
(Building burned, replaced by Everett Theatre, 1922)
51 W. Main Street, Middletown, DE 19709
- 5 Forest Presbyterian Church** (Now Church on Main)
44 W. Main Street, Middletown, DE 19709

As part of her remote internship this summer Charlotte O'Shaugnessy created a scavenger hunt for places of petition and protest about town. Be sure to check out our new exhibition: "The Big Shebang" opening November 14th to learn more about the work of women's suffrage in Middletown.



Oakland

New Driving Tour

As part of our work to create fun, socially distanced experiences, please enjoy a driving tour created by Alison Matsen to show little known historic areas northeast of Middletown! Look for more driving tours in the near future!

Download the Middletown Historical Society Driving Tour Northeast Quadrant [here](#)!



Greenlawn



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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.