



Town of Middlefield Historical Association  
P.O. Box 348 Cooperstown, NY 13326  
Headquarters at the District No 1 Schoolhouse,  
On County Highway 35, in the Hamlet of Middlefield  
April, 2016

[www.middlefieldhistorical.org](http://www.middlefieldhistorical.org)

Greetings TMHA Members,

TMHA Board of Directors is busy planning the upcoming events for the summer. We often find that this spreads the ten of us and a few helpers rather thin. Anyone interested in helping out would be greatly appreciated. We are interested in new ideas or suggestions to help make our events successful.

At our last meeting, we appointed John Bower to fill the term vacated by Kathy Sinott-Gardner. We hope Kathy will continue to help us with all of our events. We thank her for all of her help in the past.

A list of events is included in this issue. We hope to see many of you at these events.

Your President, Anne Lennebacker

#### **TMHA Officers and Board Members for 2015-16**

President - Anne Lennebacker      Vice Pres. - Jan Bartow  
Secretary - Linda Tracz              Treasurer - Dave Edwards

Board Members:

Nancy Fenno, John Bower, Dave LaDuke, Leslie Rathbun, Lars Schmid, Sammie Tabor

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#### **MITTENS FOR KIDS**

Continuing what has become a Christmas tradition, TMHA member Marion Salisbury—who now lives in Clifton Park, New York—has once again provided us with several pair of hand knitted mittens for kids in the Middlefield-Cherry Valley area.

The mittens, in a variety of colors and sizes, were distributed by our friends at the Cherry Valley Food Pantry. Many thanks to Marion for her continuing kindness.

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#### **Dates to Remember:**

April 23 - Otsego County Historical Assn. event in Springfield  
May 21 - Cooperstown Rotary Spring Fling  
July 6 - Annual Meeting At Middlefield District #1 Schoolhouse at 6pm  
July 10 - Community Day at Middlefield District #1 Schoolhouse 9am - 4pm  
October 9 - TMHA 10th Annual Fall Festival at the Schoolhouse 10am - 4pm  
December 4 - 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Christmas at the Schoolhouse

VICKERS FAMILY—FROM MIDDLEFIELD TO LITTLE FALLS — by Dave Edwards

There appear to be no descendants of the Vickers family —carrying that name— still residing above ground in Middlefield, but the book in the TMHA collection “A Biography of the Vickers Family” by Squire Vickers begged for a casual read.

To this writer, it began as simply a question of “Who is this Squire guy?”. It became much more personal. As it turned out, Squire Vickers was a great-grandson of Joseph Vickers who came to Middlefield in 1828 from Derbyshire, England. His wife, Elizabeth Jackson, was the stepsister of two brothers— Robert, a scholar who went on to be Chaplain to the Throne of William 4<sup>th</sup>, and the “other one”, who was shot.

In any case, Joseph settled his young and growing family—eventually 10 children—on a hilltop farm between Roseboom and Middlefield Center. One of his sons, Dan Andtisdell Vickers remained in Middlefield, married Adelia Bowers, and sired six children, including the author Squire Joseph (b. 1872), Dr. Fred (b. 1868) and Dr. Harry William Vickers (b.1876). Dr. Fred Vickers opened his practice in Canajoharie in 1893. His younger brother Dr. Harry William Vickers joined him there in 1903, but shortly thereafter moved his practice to Little Falls.

Dr. Harry William Vickers and his second wife Susan Sullender had four children, Fredrika, Robert, Mary and Dr. Harry Dan Vickers (b. 1908), who joined his father in practice in 1935. Dr. Harry William died in 1938, Dr. Dan, as he had become known, continued the practice until he volunteered for the Navy in World War II. He spent nearly three years in the South Pacific, and was discharged as a Lieut. Commander and Chief Surgeon at the 4000 bed Naval Hospital in Seattle, Washington in 1946.

Dr. Dan returned to Little Falls and resumed his surgical practice where, in June of 1961, on an otherwise uneventful Tuesday evening, he removed this writer’s appendix.

And Squire? After graduating from Cornell, he went on to a very respectable architectural career in New York City, designing in the early 1900’s most of the subway and elevated rail stations (on what was then known as the Rapid Transit System), as well as large office buildings in that city.

Not too shabby for a few Middlefield boys.



*Vickers-Kerzick Farm, Whole barn complex, looking west (left), Milk House (right) Joseph Vickers bought land on the present Butterbowl Road about 1830, built a small house, had a dairy and raised related crops, and hops. His oldest son Thomas settled on adjacent land on present Pollack Mountain Road. His son Daniel acquired the home farm in 1863 and added other parcels. Anton and Jennie Kerzick immigrated from Austria in 1903 and bought the Vickers farm in 1914. Anton continued the dairy farming and added to the buildings. The extensive property was sold out of the family in 2011. The Aney-Galer Burial Plot is located in a field off Pollack Mountain Road.*

EATON, et. al.

The Town of Middlefield has in its collection a booklet entitled "EATON GENEALOGY" compiled by Edwin Eaton in, we believe, 1980. It focuses on the early settlers of Otsego County.

The extensive data includes sections on nine separate but related families. The EATON family goes back to 1590; INGALLS to 1598; CHASE AND WELLS families to 1630; WINSOR to 1638; APLIN FAMILY TO 1640; MURDOCK to 1754; HUBBARD to 1812; and the related SMITH's only to 1775.

The TMHA collection is available for use of researchers or interested individuals by contacting any member of the TMHA Board.

## MEMBERSHIP

DUES ARE PAST DUE FROM QUITE A FEW; WE KNOW WHO, AND SO DO YOU  
(at least you will know if you look at the mailing label on this newsletter)

The Town of Middlefield Historical Association depends on the funds generated from memberships to operate and maintain our facilities and conduct our programs. Membership dues and donations constitute most of our operating income. Our festivals tend to be break-even programs, and our shop generates less than \$1000.00 a year.

Consequently, it is important that we maintain a continuing stream of membership renewals as well as encourage new members to join.

We are not experiencing the rate of renewals that we should at this time of the budget year. PLEASE look at your address label on this mailing; The date on the label is your renewal date. If the time has come (or come and gone) to renew your membership, please do so now.

In addition, consider recruiting some new members from your circle of friends.

### Town of Middlefield Historical Association P.O. Box 348 Cooperstown, New York 13326

*Headquartered at the Old District No. 1 Schoolhouse in the Hamlet of Middlefield*

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member 2016      \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal 2016

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

email address \_\_\_\_\_

Please select one:    \_\_\_\_\_ Single \$5.00    \_\_\_\_\_ Student \$1.00    \_\_\_\_\_ Couple \$8.00  
   \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining \$10.00    \_\_\_\_\_ Patron \$25.00

#### **Please consider an additional gift to:**

Collection Care & Acquisitions Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Building & Repair Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Veterans memorial Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Friends of TMHA Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Time & Talent**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors. Please contact me (email/ phone) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We will help with the Summer programs. Please contact me (email/ phone). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Community Day/Marketplace                      \_\_\_\_\_ Fall Festival/Craft Show

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We would like to work on one of the following task groups. Please contact me (email/ phone) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Publicity                      \_\_\_\_\_ Collection Care                      \_\_\_\_\_ Good ol' yard work

## WE NEED VOLUNTEERS !!!

TMHA needs a few volunteers to help Board members at three upcoming events.

On Monday, April 18 we need one or two individuals to help us judge entries in the New York State History Day program. This involves evaluating several entries for selection as “an outstanding entry focused on a rural history topic”. We meet at NYSHA / Farmers Museum at about 7:30 AM, get a short briefing, and spend the morning reading papers, viewing presentations and evaluating poster entries. We then spend from about 12 noon to 1 PM discussing the relative merits of the entries, and select a winner of our \$100.00 prize. A light lunch is provided by NYSHA.

On Saturday, April 23, the Otsego County Historical Association will hold their second annual Partners in Preservation event in Springfield. It is a day long event, and we need a couple of folks to help at our table. Two hour shifts (or longer, if you wish) are anticipated.

On Saturday, May 21, we will be represented at the Cooperstown Rotary Spring Fling. Again, we need a few people to help at our table, between 11 AM and 5 PM. We anticipate 2-3 hour shifts.

If you can help, please contact TMHA President Ann Linebacker at 607-547-9055. Thanks

### **TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 348 • Cooperstown, NY 13326

*Headquartered at the Old District No. 1 Schoolhouse, Middlefield*

**Address Correction Requested**