



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  
[www.middlefieldhistorical.org](http://www.middlefieldhistorical.org) June, 2013

### **President's message:**

I would like to thank the membership for their continued support and to all those that have contributed to the Veteran's Memorial. We will continue to accept donations to the The Veteran's Memorial fund to help us maintain the new area and purchase two flower urns. Anne Lennebacker has purchased a granite bench for the memorial area and it will be dedicated in memory of Floyd & Virginia Dubben and George & Dorothy Dubben. Our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Day will be held on Sunday July 21, 2013 with our usual activities of craft vendors, food concessions, The Small Town Big Band and the dedication of the Veteran's Memorial. I hope that many of our members and their families, as well as community members and neighboring community friends and families will attend this dedication to The Town of Middlefield Veterans.

The Annual Meeting for this year will be held on July 15, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the schoolhouse.

This is my last newsletter message, as T.M.H.A. President and I want to thank all the board members, volunteers and committees for their dedicated work for this association. The schoolhouse is a very special place in Middlefield history. Jan Bartow

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### Upcoming TMHA Events

July 15, 7 p.m. Annual meeting of the Town of Middlefield Historical Association. Election of officers will take place. All TMHA members are invited.

July 21 9a.m. - 4p.m. 40th Annual Middlefield Community Day  
Festival including Worship service, Small Town Big Band.

The Marketplace - a group of vendors including: crafts, local produce, and historical associations from the area.

There will be plenty of food and live music.

**Dedication Ceremony for the Middlefield Veterans Memorial at 12:00 noon.**

August 24 7p.m. Civil War discussion with Bob Consigli

September 22 10a.m. - 4p.m. 8th Annual TMHA Fall Festival & Craft Show

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The current TMHA Board of Directors are: September Amspacher, Dave Edwards, Ron Jennings, Anne Lennebacker, Sue Markusen,, Les Rathbun,

TMHA Officers are elected to one year terms at the annual meeting. The TMHA officers are:  
President - Jan Bartow, Vice President - Christine McNaughton,  
Secretary - Kathy Sinnott Gardner , Treasurer - Jim Hill,

## **Insights on Beekeeping - historical and current day observations**

*FROM THE DIARY OF SABRINA CAMPBELL\* OF MIDDLEFIELD CENTER*

**June 6, 1803**

***This forenoon, Mr. Parse came here. Told me that the mice had found their way to his bees. Had almost destroyed them. I took the alarm. I got him to go with me to search our hemlock hive. Found mice holes round the bottom. Turned it up. I could not be satisfied. Mr. Parse thought he saw where the comb had been gnawed. We put it back for future discoveries. Some frost this morning.***

Mice have been a bane of beekeepers for ages. They gnaw their way into the hive in the Fall when the bees are clustered up for the winter and make themselves at home, free from wind and rain, benefiting from the warmth of the cluster. The mice will feast on honey, chew on the wax and frames, soil the hive and sometimes die in the hive. In Sabrina's day almost every home had a hive or two, to pollinate the orchard and serve as a source of honey. The hives in those days were sections of hollow logs called "gums". The loss of a hive to mice over the winter could be serious.

**June 7, 1803**

***Cold morning. Some frost. Up early. Been cold since the rain. About noon today, the little hive sent out the largest swarm I ever saw. Unkles boys came at the sound of the horn. Several girls here called for Louise to go to quilting. None of them dare assist me. I hived there alone. I took Plutarch Lives I got from the library. Sat in the little nursery and wacht there awhile. Sat the hive on the bench tonight. It was very heavy. All is hush except the humming of the bees***

Around here, swarm season, then as now, is generally from mid-May to mid-July. When a hive becomes too congested for its space, the Queen gives off the appropriate pheromones, about half the colony gorges on honey and prepares to swarm, while the remaining bees modify one or more honeycomb cells that contain a new egg into a "queen cell", and raise a new queen. The bees that swarm follow the Queen, form a mass of bees (the "swarm") all around the Queen, send out scout bees to find a new home, and before the day is out, they are in their new home, building honeycomb, searching for pollen and nectar, and 'reproducing' the colony.

Then as now, capturing a swarm is the most economical way of increasing a beekeepers apiary. Losing a swarm is a setback.

*\* Sabrina Crafts married Dr. William Campbell of Cherry Valley circa 1795-1798. He practiced for a few years in Middlefield Center before returning to Cherry Valley to pursue a political career, eventually becoming the New York State Surveyor General. In 1803, Dr. Campbell was away for several months, leaving the Middlefield Center property in the hands of his young wife. We believe that he was in western New York State surveying land.*

## MIDDLEFIELD VETERANS MEMORIAL

Some time ago, we discussed the idea of honoring veterans as part of our mission to collect historical data.

The first phase of our program will be to place and dedicate a granite monument on the grounds of the Schoolhouse at our annual Community Day celebration on July 21, 2013, at 12 noon. The continuing phase will be to solicit and compile biographical information on all Middlefield related veterans we can find, and enter this in an appropriate book of recognition that will be displayed in the Schoolhouse.

We are asking your help in identifying and contacting individuals and families of veterans with a Middlefield connection that will allow us to gather the necessary data. The information may be relayed via telephone or mail. Additionally our web site, [www.middlefieldhistorical.org](http://www.middlefieldhistorical.org) has a biographical sheet that may be downloaded and submitted, or simply contact any member of the TMHA Board of Directors or Les Rathbun, committee Chair at 607-547-9093.

In addition, any individuals or group wishing to support this continuing project financially may send their donation to TMHA and designate your support to the Veteran's Memorial Fund.

We thank you for your support in this endeavor and hope to see a significant turnout of veterans and their families for the Memorial Dedication Ceremony during Middlefield Community Day, on July 21, 2013.

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Is it time to renew your TMHA membership? Your renewal date is shown on the address label on page 4.

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**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 2013 \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal 2013

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). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ One summer Sunday Program Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Greeter

\_\_\_\_\_ 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

## **NEW YORK STATE HISTORY DAY**

The folks at the New York State Historical Association, do a fine job of hosting the State Finals of the National History Day program every year. This year-long educational program encourages students in grades six through twelve to explore local, state, national and world history through research projects that relate to an annual theme. This year the State Finals were held in Cooperstown on Monday, April 29, and the theme was “*Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events*”.

The projects--exhibits, performances, essays, documentaries and web sites--are judged on merit by qualified judges, with the first and second place winners in each category going on to the National Finals in College Park, Maryland. In addition, special prizes are awarded by interested groups and individuals for topics with a more narrow range--Civil War, Women’s History, Maritime History, Irish History, Labor Studies, Health Care, and others.

The Town of Middlefield Historical Association presents an special award every year for the best project with a rural history theme. This year our award went to Colin Lynch, Jacob Brill, George Hill and Jonathan Bumanis, students at the Herbert Hoover Middle School in Buffalo, New York, for their group exhibit “The Erie Canal”.

Also, it should be noted, that Emma Harnett, a student at Cherry Valley-Springfield High School earned second place for her web site “*Fall of the Berlin Wall and the Decline of Communism*”. She will go on to the National History Day competition in College Park.

If you have not had the opportunity to view the New York State History Day projects in the past, be aware that public viewing is available in the Main Barn of the Farmer’s Museum from 12 noon to 2 PM on the day of the contest. Performances and documentaries can be viewed as space permits during the day, with schedules available from NYSHA each year. It is worth the trip.

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

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**Address Correction Requested**