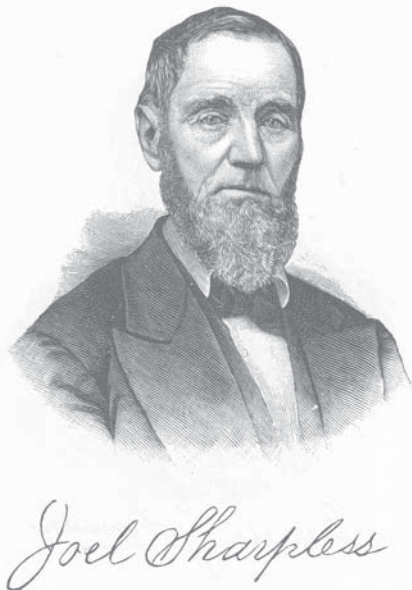


BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

This is the third in a series of notable residents of Middletown Township as recorded in History of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, by Henry Graham Ashmead, 1884.



John Sharpless of Ratherton, in the county of Chester, England, married Jane More, of the same place, in the year 1662. With their seven children they embarked for America two months previous to the arrival of William Penn, in 1682, landing at Chester on the 14th of June of the same year.

Joseph Sharpless, the youngest son, married Lydia Lewis, and settled in Lower Providence, on part of the original purchase of one thousand acres, and later removed to four hundred acres in Middletown Township. His nine children were Susannah, Benjamin, Samuel, Lydia, Nathan, Jane, Abraham, Jacob, and William. Samuel married Jane Newlin, daughter of John and Mary Newlin of Concord, and settled on part of the original purchase. They had twelve children,--Mary, John, Thomas, Lydia, Abigail, Samuel, Hannah, Susanna, Phoebe, Rachel, Samuel, and Joel. Samuel Sharpless died in 1790, his wife, Jane, in 1798. Their son, Joel, married in 1784, Hannah, daughter of Joshua and Lydia Mendenhall.

They finally settled upon two hundred acres, the larger portion of which is now embraced in the farm of the subject of this sketch, on which his residence, "The Hermitage," stands in Middletown, and all but one survive.

The birth of Joel, the second child, occurred March 9, 1810. He was from childhood accustomed to labor, and received only such an education as could be obtained during the winter months after attaining his tenth year. At the age of nineteen he taught school, continuing this vocation at intervals for a period of several years. On the 25th of December, 1841, he was married to Miss Hannah, youngest daughter of Abel and Lydia Minshall, of Middletown. Mrs. Sharpless died on the 10th of December 1845, leaving one son, Minshall, whose death occurred in 1864. Mr. Sharpless was a second time married on the 6th of May, 1847, to Sarah Ann, daughter of Abel and Sarah Green, whose children are Josephine, Robert, Gertrude, Margaretta, Willard, Joel, Sarah A., Henry, and Marian.

Mr. Sharpless soon after his first marriage engaged in farming on shares, at a later date rented, and in 1848 purchased the farm of his father, and in 1856 an adjacent farm of his brother. He resided for a time on the latter, but in 1867 removed to "The Hermitage." He received but little substantial aid in his business operations, and is indebted to his own industry and intelligence for the measure of success he has enjoyed. Mr. Sharpless has since 1854 been either a Whig or a Republican in politics, and filled various local offices such as school director, director of the poor, supervisor, etc. He has been since 1836 a member of the Delaware County Institute of Science. His religious belief is that of the society of the Friends, of which he is a member.

(Note: Joel Sharpless and his two wives are buried at Cumberland Cemetery)

Middletown Township Historical Society
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2011 Officers

Susan Mescanti, President
Mary Anne Eves, Vice President
Mike Benson, Secretary
J. Karl Thomas, Treasurer

Board Members

Suzanne Davis *Gary Grove*
Carolyn Doerfler *Tony Ieradi*
Bruce Downing *Steve Manning*



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Fall/ Winter 2011 - 12

OTHER TIMES

May 18, 1911 – Leander Riddle, of Glen Riddle, the well-known horseman in the county, was in Atlantic City, N.J., where he was taking part in a horse show for thoroughbreds.

April 14, 1936 – The Valley View Inn near Black Horse in Middletown opened and features a \$1 dinner and all the beer you can drink. It's an opening special.

March 12, 1961 – The old Elwyn Post Office at the Pennsylvania Railroad Station on Elwyn Road closed. A new office opened at the Elwyn Shopping Center at Middletown and Glen Riddle roads.

June 22 1986– The Middletown Township Historical Society had its annual picnic at the Tyler Arboretum on Painter Road, Middletown, with a dinner and a video tape program on the old Rhodes home on Painter Road.

May 15, 2001 - The Franklin Mint in Middletown is having a Renaissance 2001 Art Show at the mint museum on Baltimore Pike.

Working with Our Schools: Indian Lane Elementary School Legacy Project

In the fall of 2011, Mr. David Woods, 5th grade teacher at Indian Lane Elementary School, asked MTHS to suggest historic sites within the township to be considered as topics for a 5th Grade Legacy Project. The students would be creating 7-8 mosaics to be placed in the alcoves along the front of the school building.



Susan Mescanti and Gary Grove met with Mr. Woods and offered resource material and suggestions for the project. The artist, teacher, and students selected seven topics: Mills of Middletown, Sam Riddle's Farm and Man O'War, Lenni Lenape Indians, Wawa Dairy, Tyler Arboretum, Middletown

Presbyterian Church, and Linvilla. The eighth mosaic lists the contributors to the project. Many school district and community leaders, parents and residents attended the dedication ceremony in front of Indian Lane on June 7th.



Indian Lane Elementary teacher David Woods gathers the students for the dedication ceremony

MIDDLETOWN MONDAYS LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES THROUGH FALL 2011

The Middletown Township Historical Society will resume the Middletown Mondays Lecture Series on Monday, September 19 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Lima Estates, 411 North Middletown Road, Media, PA 19063. All lectures are free and open to the public, no registration required.

Monday, September 19
SAM RIDDLE: A MAN & HIS HORSES
by Kay Ferrari, Independent Scholar

Monday, October 17
**GHOST STORIES AND LEGENDS
AROUND MIDDLETOWN**
by Nancy Webster, Independent Scholar

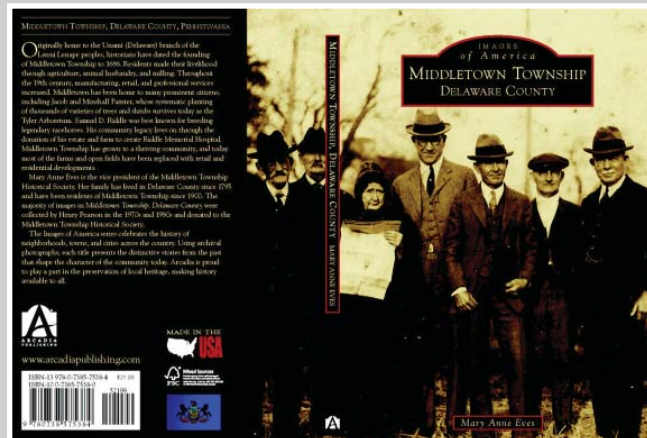
Monday, November 21
**TRAINS AND TROLLEYS
THROUGH MIDDLETOWN**
by Stan Bowman, Independent Scholar



Lecturer Gary Grove stands with several of the many Pusey family members who attended his lecture "Joshua Pusey, Matches and Much More."

- This schedule is subject to change. For a detailed description of the lectures, please visit our website www.mthsdelco.org. This program has been supported in part by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, the Federal-State Partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities www.pahumanities.org
- Most lectures are recorded on DVD and are available at the Middletown Free Library.
- Our ability to secure grant money is partially dependent on evidence that MTHS is a growing organization involving members of the community. Please help us continue these lectures by showing your support through membership.

NEW BOOK ON MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP IS HERE!



Middletown Township, Delaware County, PA a new book in Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" went on sale September 6 at the Middletown Free Library. Author Mary Anne Eves will present a Power Point talk and autograph books at the Library on Thursday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, October 16 at 1:30 p.m. Events where the book will be available are: Sunday, September 25, Cumberland Cemetery Historic Tours, 1:00 to 4:00 PM; Sunday, October 2, Media Food & Crafts Festival, State Street (exact location

TBD), 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Tuesday, November 1, Book Talk & Signing, AIA Phila Book Store with Deborah DeCollo author of Arcadia's Roxborough, 5:30-7:00 p.m.; Monday, January 9, 2012, Book Talk & Signing, Delaware County Institute of Science, 8:00 p.m.

Please check the MTHS website, www.mthsdelco.org, for future book talks. **Books purchased at the Library** or at MTHS events will sell for only \$20.00 and directly benefit the Historical Society.

HERITAGE COMMISSION AWARD FOR LECTURE SERIES

The Heritage Commission of Delaware County selected the Middletown Monday's lecture series to receive a 2011 Preservation Award for Special Program.



Mary Anne Eves received the award at the County Council meeting on May 3rd at the Government Center Building in Media. She has put together a lineup of interesting topics and presenters to run through November 2011 in celebration of the 325th Anniversary of Middletown Township. At this time, plans are being made to continue the lectures into 2012. Your support will enable us to provide future lectures. These lectures are funded in part by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. Our ability to continue to receive grant funds is dependent on increased membership. Members, please renew your membership. If you are not a member of MTHS, please consider joining us in preserving and promoting the history of Middletown Township.

MIDDLETOWN PARADE AND COMMUNITY DAY

MTHS marched proudly in the Community Day parade from Granite Run Mall to Penn State Brandywine the morning of May 7. Board member, Gary Grove, served as Parade Chairman and did an outstanding job coordinating all the entrées. Mike Benson marched in Civil War uniform, Bruce Downing carried the banner, and Steve Manning transported the MTHS display honoring Joshua Pusey, inventor of the paper matchbook.

Once the parade arrived at Penn State, MTHS members manned our tent providing information. The historical society would like to thank Russ Carlson for his generous donation of the 325th Anniversary T-shirts which are being sold to benefit the historical society.



Steve Manning secures the "matchbook" in the staging area at the Granite Run Mall

LIBRARY/HISTORICAL SOCIETY WINE AND CHEESE

On Saturday, April 30, a 325th Anniversary joint celebration by the Middletown Library and the Historical Society took place at the library. The event was held to commemorate the township's anniversary and to say thank you to those who generously support both organizations.

Ian Wilson, owner of DaShin Restaurant in Elwyn Shopping Center, made and donated two beautiful cakes. The Friends of the Library provided the refreshments, and through the efforts of both the library and the historical society, almost everyone left with a wonderful door prize. Thank you to local businesses and individuals who contributed prizes.



Ian Wilson and Susan Mescanti cut the cakes at the wine and cheese.