



# Middletown Township Historical Society

## MIDDLETOWN MONDAYS 2018

Lectures begin at 7:00 p.m.

at Lima Estates, 411 North Middletown Road, Media, PA 19063

Free and open to the public, no registration required.

Monday, January 22

### **CHESTER'S ROLE DURING WORLD WAR I**

by J. Joseph Edgette, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus and Folklorist Emeritus, Widener University

The Great War was proclaimed as the war to end all wars. Though it was fought in Europe, first world war ancillary activities were very much in evidence in cities, towns, and hamlets throughout the United States to aide and support our Allies abroad. Each had something to offer to the War effort with Chester, Pennsylvania among many of those offering a lion's share of generosity, contributory, and supportive involvement. Besides shipbuilding from the capital of the shipbuilding industry of the U.S., Chester was a supplier of arms, ammunition, other war-related materials and services in addition to its most precious commodity, men and women to serve in the armed forces. This richly illustrated presentation will provide a descriptive narrative and discussion of the significant role Chester played during the war to end all wars.

Monday, March 19

### **ANNA HOWARD SHAW AND HER WOMEN WORKING DURING WORLD WAR I**

by Nancy Webster, Independent Scholar

Join us for this special Women's History Month program on the Reverend Doctor Anna Howard Shaw, minister, physician, ardent feminist, masterful orator and resident of Moylan, PA. Early in her career Dr. Shaw worked to improve individual morality by ministering at two churches while earning a medical degree but she never practiced medicine. Instead, she took up the crusade for temperance and women's suffrage. During World War I, she became chair of the Woman's Committee of the United States Council of National Defense, coordinating women's contributions to the war effort. For this work she became the first woman to earn the Distinguished Service Medal. At the end of the war, at the request of President Wilson and former President Taft, she lectured in the U.S. and Europe in support of world peace and the League of Nations. She died in July, 1919, just before the Women's Suffrage Amendment was ratified.

Monday, April 16

### **PHILADELPHIA: THE WORLD WAR I YEARS**

by Peter Williams, author of Philadelphia: The World War I Years

From 1914 to 1918 the world was engulfed in a devastating and terrifying war. Using photographs, poster art and other images Peter Williams will offer a glimpse of what life in Philadelphia was like 100 years ago. He will discuss how people lived, worked and spent their leisure time during the years encompassing the First World War. He'll also describe how the city, its businesses and its people mobilized once America joined the war and how they celebrated the return of the troops and memorialized their service and sacrifice.

*In case of inclement weather or changes in the schedule please visit our website [www.mthsdelpa.org](http://www.mthsdelpa.org) or call 610-316-5620.*

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## **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 - SPECIAL VALENTINE'S DAY TALK**

**at the MTHS Office & Museum in the former Roosevelt School, 464 S. Old Middletown Road, 2:00 p.m.**

### **LEIPER LOVE LETTERS & WEDDING TALES**

by Angela Hewitt, President, Friends of the Thomas Leiper House, Wallingford, PA

Angela will give us special Valentine romance stories from Thomas Leiper and his descendants. She starts with a love letter Thomas wrote to Elizabeth Gray in 1777 and ends with the wedding of Virginia Leiper in Chester in 1890. In between are more love letters, break-ups, honeymoons, and wedding descriptions. It turns out that Thomas Leiper and his family were not much different from our families today, but few men now have written love letters like George Leiper did in the 1820's and 30's.

**The MTHS museum displays will be open before the talk at 1:00 p.m. and following the talk until 4:00 p.m.  
Refreshments will be served following the talk.**