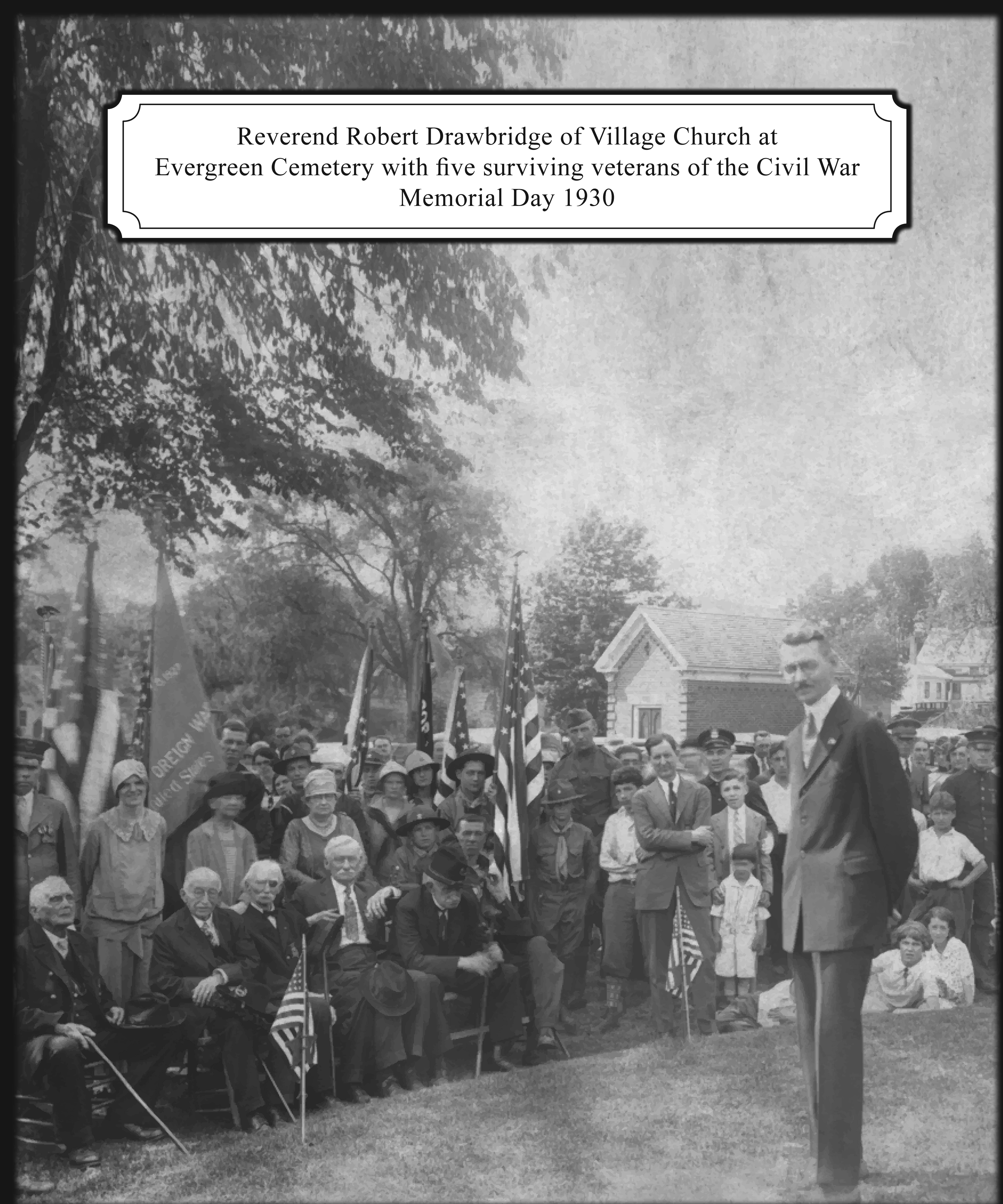
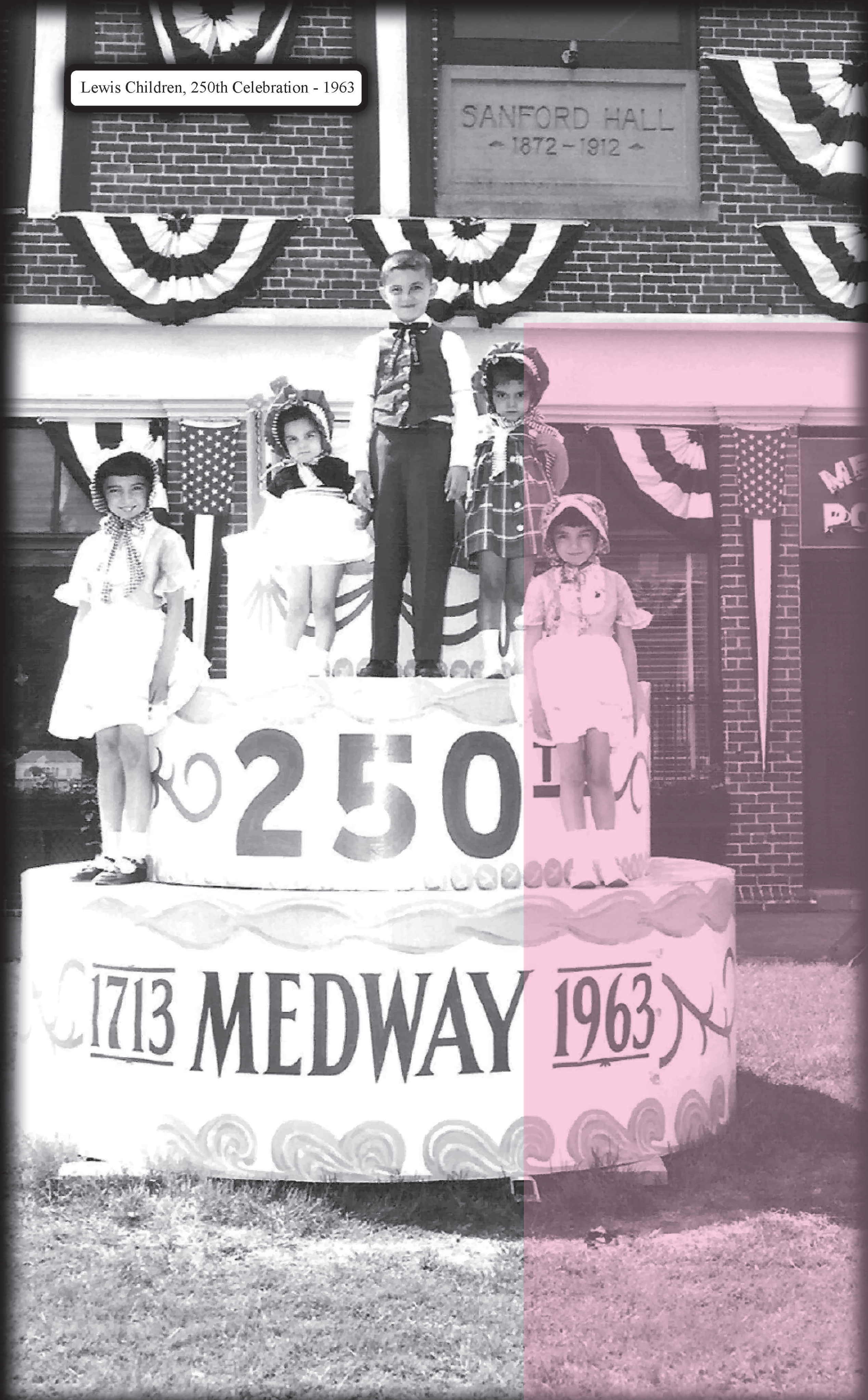


Reverend Robert Drawbridge of Village Church at
Evergreen Cemetery with five surviving veterans of the Civil War
Memorial Day 1930



Lewis Children, 250th Celebration - 1963



Daniel Malloy, Village Street Firehouse - 1913



West Medway Engine 1 Maxim - 1935



Medway Police Department with Chief Leo Cassidy (third from left) - Memorial Day 1955



W. Medway Fire Hose 1 Ladder Combination at Torrent - 1911



Police Officer, John Kingsbury, First Night Patrolman - 1927



Fire 3rd Torrent and 1st Hose Reel



Law and Order, Fire Protection, Celebrations

“Keepers of the peace” and constables served a multitude of functions of law and order in Medway’s earliest days, up to 1875, when the first police officers (8) were appointed. They had no set hours and worked under supervision of the Board of Selectmen. The first “police department” was recognized in 1922, and the “Chief” was the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Other changes occurred as the years passed; Officer John Kingsbury (pictured here, 1939) was our first night patrolman. As for fire protection, Medway had been a town for 100 years before this idea gained attention (1813) and the first “engine company” was appointed. In 1835 the first “engine” appeared: a man-or horse-drawn wagon carrying ladders and buckets! After 1851 more equipment was gradually added. By 1857, fire-fighters were paid 35¢ per hour while working. Water came from nearby streams or cisterns. Fire barns were built; church bells rang the alarms; farmers brought their horses to pull the engines. When a municipal water system was developed in 1908, fire-fighting became more effective. As for celebrations, the people of Medway enjoyed commemorating the town’s anniversaries and events, as well as national holidays, with parades, plays, and fairs in keeping with the times, just as we do today. Francis D. Donovan’s *The New Grant, A History of Medway* (Pub. 1976) is the reference for this information.

Visit medwayhistoricalsociety.org or scan the QR code below to learn more.



Medway Historical Commission 2023.

townofmedway.org/historical-commission

All images are courtesy of the Medway Historical Society.

