

DOVER TIDINGS

Spring 2017
Volume XVII, No. 1



Pamela Kunkemueller
Editor

The Dover Historical Society, P.O. Box 534, Dover, Massachusetts 02030
www.doverhistoricalsociety.org

The President's Letter

As we approach the Centennial Anniversary of America's entry into World War One it is surprisingly difficult to gain meaningful perspective on the role played by one small community in that conflict. A bronze plaque in our Town Hall commemorates the service of 77 men and one woman, further noting that one man, George B. Preston, was killed in action and two more, William H. Locke and William McHaskell, died in service. In *Dover Days Gone By* our late Town Historian Dick Vara quite properly adds a third name, that of Robert Gorham Fuller, to our list of deaths in service.

Our only battle casualty, Private George B. Preston, 21, was one of two brothers adopted by Elbridge and Lillian Mann of 52 Main Street. Enlisting in the Massachusetts National Guard, Preston was sent to the 102nd Infantry Regiment which arrived in France on September 21, 1917. On April 20, 1918 he was killed in action during heavy fighting around the French village of Seicheprey, 25 miles southeast of Verdun. He was buried in Highland Cemetery with full military honors and our American Legion Post is named in his honor.

Private William H. Locke, 24, was the son of William H. Locke, a blacksmith living on Springdale Avenue. Private Locke was serving with an aviation squad in France when he was killed in an explosion on January 3, 1919. The one woman memorialized on the bronze plaque at the Town Hall was William's sister Addie A. Locke who served as a nurse.

Captain Robert Gorham Fuller, 36, of Pegan Hill was serving with the Inspectional Division of the U. S. Army Ordnance Corps when he died of acute nephritis on February 11, 1919 in Saint Petersburg, FL.

Boatswains Mate 2nd Class William McHaskell, 23, was serving on the mine sweeper USS Auk, off the Orkney Islands, when he was fatally crushed while unreeling sweep wire from the drum of the anchor engine. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

While these four names are an honorable reflection of the sacrifices made by Dover's citizens in "making the world safe for democracy", they are in themselves only a small representation of a much broader military and civilian experience on the part of Dover's citizenry which we hope to explore in greater detail over the course of the coming year.

Elisha Lee

In Memoriam

We are deeply saddened by the death of two of the Dover Historical Society's longest serving and much loved members, Shirley McGill and Beverly Ryburn. Shirley was a descendant of one of the earliest Dover families and contributed to the Society in too many ways to count. Bev was a stalwart docent of both the Caryl House and Sawin Museum for decades.

Both will be sorely missed for their knowledge, dedication and grace. We extend our deepest sympathy to their families and friends. We too will miss them greatly.

Audio Visual Tour of the Sawin Museum

At some stage last year I received an email and a message on the museum's answering machine from a certain Matthew Rockett who works for a company called UniGuide. He was offering to provide us with a free audio tour of the Sawin Museum if we supplied the script. It all seemed too good to be true and slightly suspicious, so neither message received a response. At the next Dover Historical Society Board meeting I mentioned the matter and the general reaction was rather non-committal, so I let it be. But Mr. Rockett was persistent and more messages were received, which I allowed mature for a while, only responding earlier this year.

Well, it seems that UniGuide is a young bona fide organization based in Washington DC, and that it has already provided gratis audio tours for seventeen sites in Massachusetts including the House of Seven Gables, Herman Melvin's Arrowhead Residence and the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts Museum, no less. The reason for the free offer is that UniGuide is still growing and wants to increase its theatre of sites. All they ask in return is permission to advertise the fact that the Sawin Museum has a UniGuide audio tour. It seemed to me that that we had little to lose and with Board approval we proceeded with the project, which if nothing else will yield an excellent, well-illustrated Docent's Guide.

This has been a joint effort, with Lori Carbone providing most of the script for the Lower Level, Pam Kunkemueller for the Main and Top Floors and me covering several specific exhibits. The end result consists of a 5,000 word script, the equivalent of nine single spaced typed pages, and 24 carefully chosen photographs illustrating the main exhibits.

When a visitor arrives at the museum they may download the app on their phone for free and then proceed to visit the museum in

whichever order they wish by downloading the numbered audio segments. A slightly edited sample of these is presented here along with their accompanying images as a preview for *Dover Tidings* readers:

After a general introduction to the building, followed by a diorama of the first commercial center of town, the visitor enters the Main Hall, now providing a visual history of Dover from its very earliest occupation by humans up to the present. Also of note is that the displays here and elsewhere in the museum are geared towards enhancing our local schools' curricula with emphasis on relevant historical facts and mechanical, geared, devices.



As an archaeologist I decided to focus on the two displays that reflect the materials which this profession is so good at contributing to the historical record, starting with Case #3 and its exhibit of stone objects made by the Pre-Contact Indigenous Peoples who began hunting and gathering food in the Dover woods some 5,000 years ago.

Most items were found by farmers working their land. They consist of a rare stone bowl in the back of the show case, tools and weapons, specifically the projectile points of different sizes and shapes which tipped spears, since the bow and arrow had yet to be introduced at the time they were in use. The intriguing miniature points are of unknown function. Were they perhaps toys? On the left are displayed some pot sherds from a nearby rock shelter occupied much later, and in front the replica axe and gouge with their wooden handles give a fair impression of just how these

efficient tools were utilized. The unusually large felling axe on the right is ancient, although its handle is reconstructed.



Case #6 displays a range of artifacts recovered from the archaeological excavations at Wilson Farm on Strawberry Hill in 1979 and 1980. The finds, which include fine decorated teacups and

stoneware storage vessels (sadly all metal had long since decayed), along with primary documentary research, strongly suggest that this house, reputed to be Dover's first, was not built before the early 1700s. That is well after the end of King Philip's War in 1676 and corresponds to a time when many other inhabitants were leaving Dedham center for their outlying lands.

The Lower Level now exhibits many items of interest, but I wish to feature #14, the tableau focusing on school and the life of children in Dover's past and present. Sitting on the long bench or at the desk with its inkwell, one can imagine a classroom of yore. The tall white 18th century schoolmaster's or more likely schoolmistresses' desk is original to one of Dover's earliest school-houses. Little is known about Dover's first school on Haven Street; however the second one is recorded in 1764.



When students from the Chickering and Charles River Schools visit the displays, they are encouraged to ponder the notion that “every Dover student is a part of Dover’s history” and will often be surprised to find their class photograph on the museum wall! And the range of toys, sleds, skates and other familiar childhood equipment above the exhibit demonstrates that these items have changed little over time, to the surprise of many young visitors.

On the Top Floor may be seen an eclectic assortment of 19th and early 20th century toys, personal items, china and military items,



but none is more striking than #22, Amelia Peabody’s lovely ca. 1900 doll house. It is clearly hand-made with charming details both inside and out. It features curtains at the windows, and

miniature furnishings appropriate to each room as well as a collection of little dogs and cats that inhabit the building. Miss Peabody, as she is known today, was born and raised in Boston, but she came to Dover in the early 1920s to ride with the Norfolk Hunt and then bought Mill Farm. Throughout the years she acquired considerable acreage which upon her death she left to the Trustees of Reservations. It is now known as Noanet Woodlands.

Miss Peabody was a renowned sculptress, a successful farmer and horse breeder, philanthropist and an early conservationist. She must have played with this doll house as a little girl in Boston. That she brought it with her to Dover and gave it to the Historical Society, for which she served as Secretary in the 1950s, is a good indication of how much she valued it.

Prominent objects in the central cabinet of #20, relate to the Civil War and include a well preserved rifle with its oversized bayonet, an officer's sword in its leather scabbard and on the wall behind the replica of an 1860 Colt Army revolver. The display of different sized cannon balls includes one fired at Gettysburg, that pivotal Civil War battle along with a rare doctor's leather saddlebag next to a horses' bridle. The shelf below exhibits a range of items including bullet making equipment, Confederate bank notes, water canteens and a military style hat, along with commemorative medals. Underneath, an officer's field desk with its cubby holes and drawers carefully labelled is visible beside various documents of interest.



The above provides a flavor of what Pam, Lori and I have produced, so we hope that readers will now be sufficiently intrigued to come and see and hear for themselves.

Stuart Swiny
Curator, Sawin Museum

Welcome Junior Docents

We are delighted to include three Dover-Sherborn High School students on our list of docents for the spring season: Lillian Nystrom, Kelby Weden and Yasmeen Wirth. They will help out at both the Caryl House and Sawin Museum on chosen Saturday afternoons April – June from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Chickering School Third Grade Visits

For four days each spring, groups of third graders can be seen walking through the center of Dover, and perhaps also back in time, to visit the Caryl House, Fisher Barn, and the Sawin Museum.

At the Caryl House the students are invited to imagine family life in Dover more than 200 years ago. They learn not only about Dover's first minister and first doctor (four generations of Caryls lived there) but also about keeping warm in the winter months without modern heat, the challenges of baking and cooking over a fire, and doing homework with pen and ink.

There are many simple machines in the Fisher Barn that can be tried. The apple press, the huge two-person "cross-cut" saws and the grinding stone for sharpening blades are popular tools that the students delight in working. They consider chores filling their days such as milking cows, carrying buckets of water and picking fruits and vegetables in the fields that are now a baseball field, the well-known playground and hiking trails through the woods.

The Sawin Museum is another afternoon trek for the classes. There they see the story of the Dover area through the ages illustrating the curriculum they have been learning all year, such as tools and weapons made by the Indigenous Peoples thousands of years ago as well as baskets made by them more recently, a pair of shoe buckles said to have been made by Paul Revere, and a flintlock musket perhaps used at the battle of Bunker Hill in Boston.

Featured in the new Williams Tavern corner is a mural painted by a local artist, depicting Dover in about 1810. Young visitors will be surprised to see Noanet Peak cleared of the woods which cover it today and to find many "hidden" birds and animals that are still a common sight in Dover.

In the Lower Level of the museum the students enthusiastically handle the items on display, seeing and touching to experience the story of domestic life and school life in Dover through the years. They are encouraged to ponder the notion that “every Dover student is a part of Dover’s history” and will often be surprised to find their class photograph on the museum wall. With the help of a scavenger hunt, they are challenged to discover toys and household tools that have changed considerably, or sometimes very little, over time.

Sharing the story of Dover’s past and helping students imagine the life of a child so long ago is a joy to the Society volunteers who participate in this program. We are always looking for more volunteers to bring Dover’s history alive for these eager learners! There are Docent Guides available for both the Caryl House and Sawin Museum and one can start learning by simply watching. We are looking for more people to volunteer to help with this project and eagerly invite your participation. Please let me know if you would like to participate.

Lori Carbone
Education Committee Chair

Save the Date

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

American Carousel Art
Barbara H. Palmer

7:30 p.m.
Dover Library, Lower Level

Admission is free
Refreshments will be served

Seventh Preservation Award

The Ebenezer Richards House (1769) received the Dover Historical Society's Seventh Preservation Award at the Annual Meeting on March 22, 2017 at the Dover Library. Dr. Holly Kelsey currently owns the 202 Dedham Street house.



All members of the Richards family in Dover descended from Edward Richards who arrived on the Lyon from London on September 16, 1632, lived for three years in Cambridge, and then settled in Dedham. In 1978 Electa Kane prepared a case study of the Richards Family in Dedham, describing the process of acquiring land, some of which was located in what eventually became Dedham's fourth precinct, Springfield Parish and now Dover.¹ Ebenezer Richards received land from his father, Ebenezer, who had inherited land from his father, James. Ebenezer

¹ Kane, Electa W. *Lands and Family: the Richards Farm, Dedham, Massachusetts*, Bulletin of The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Vol. LXVIII, 1978.

(1744 - 1784) built his house on Dedham Street when he married Hannah Wiswall (1745 - 1787) in 1769.

The Ebenezer Richards House we see today sports an asymmetrical gable roof, a modification of a nineteenth century symmetrical gable roof. Attic timbers and fireplace masonry suggest that the original Richards House was a saltbox composed of the east room and hallway with a lean-to attached to the rear of that section. Additions on the north and west had been completed by 1823 when the western portion of the House was sold. In *Dover Farms*, Frank Smith mentions a secret chamber in the chimney which was accessible by stairs for use as a hiding space during the French and Indian War. This room still exists. The House remained in the Richards family until 1836.

Although there have been a number of owners since the House left the Richards family, the last three owners have lived there for forty-five, twenty-five, and thirty years and counting. Their emphasis has been on preserving the House by removing Greek Revival touches, sealing the natural stone basement, and restoring the cedar shingle roof.

It is a pleasure for the Historic Preservation Award Committee, consisting of Jill French, Priscilla Jones, chair, Sara Molyneaux, and Charlotte Surgenor, to consider nominations from the community each year. For a list of prior Award recipients, please check our website, doverhistoricalsociety.org.

Priscilla Pitt Jones
Preservation Award Committee, Chair

Caryl House Garden Party – Sunday, June 4!

It is with great pleasure that the Dover Historical Society will showcase a Dover family string band trio. They call themselves Tatu Mianzi, which is Swahili for “Three Reeds”, a play on words for mother, professional musician Susan Reed, and her two teenage daughters, Allie and Kate: a combo of two violins and a cello.

According to a recent WickedLocal article, the three have played together for years both in this country and abroad. Their favorite performances are the “busking” they do regularly at Faneuil Hall Marketplace because of the give and take those performances allow. Their concert at our Garden Party from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. will give both them and their lucky audience that perfect opportunity.

The afternoon’s program will focus on classical and popular music that would have arrived in Boston from Europe during the years that Benjamin Caryl and his descendants lived in the House. Of special prominence will be the English, Scottish and Irish tunes so familiar to all at that time.

All are invited to come and enjoy a relaxing Sunday afternoon in June on the lawn and in the gardens of the Benjamin Caryl House at 107 Dedham Street. Refreshments will be served and as always, children are especially welcome.

Janet Comiskey-Giannini
Curator, Benjamin Caryl House

Photo Credits

All photographs in this issue of *Dover Tidings* were taken by Stuart Swiny.

2016 Memberships and Contribution

\$500 and above

Anonymous
Richard Hodgson
Susanne Knowles
Pamela Kunkemueller
Larry Lester
Sara Jo and James Marble

Needham Bank
Tara and Christopher Oliver
Daniel Wilcox
J. Douglas Wolfe
Patty Wylde

\$200 to \$499

Elizabeth and Redington Barrett
Dorothy Boylan
Clare Burke and Robert Hillberg
Chicatabot Garden Club
Mary R. Clark
Margaret Clowes / Margaret Bowles
James Heppelman and Mary Hable
David W. Lewis
Stephen Little
George and Laverne Lovell
Stacy Newell

Barbara Palmer and Peter Jordan
Kevin Shale and Amy Wilcox
Edmund and Deborah Stein
Charlotte and Timothy Surgenor
Stuart and Helena Swiny
Walter and Kathleen Weld
Susan and James Whelan
Kevin and Eileen White
Richard and Catherine White
Craig and Julie Whiting

\$75 to 199

John and Regina Adams
Caroline Akins
Yvonne and Salvatore Balsamo
Jedd Barclay
Mark and Lynda Barnes
Stephen and Kelly Bates
Laura Boudreau
Barbara and Jake Brown
William Burgin
Astrid and Thomas Burns
Dale Cabot
Loretta Carbone
Anne and Jeffrey Carter
Jennifer Cashman
James and Julia Cavan
William and Mila Clark
Robert and Susan Cocks
Holly and David Collins
J Paul Condrin
David and Susan Cottrell
Mary Ann and James Coughlin
Margaret and Thomas Crowley

Anita and Joseph Losscalzo
Mike and Beverly Loynd
Paul and Nancy Marandett
Anthony and Kristin Marken
Gerald and Jayne Marx
Douglas and Julie Mathisen
Leslie and Michael Maurer
Candace McCann and Barbara Brechmayer
Karen McKoy and Paul Lesser
Paula Melican
Robert and Donna Metafora
Elizabeth Minot
Sarah Rueppel Monaco
Colin and Roberta Moore
Jane Moore
Amey Moot and Kem Stewart
Barbara Murphy
Sharon and George Murphy
Kerry Muzyka
Terrence and Kathryn O'Connor
Patrick O'Sullivan
Sarah Perdoni

Christopher Cutler
Virginia Dabney
Heather Hodgson and Steve DePaola
Nancy Doyle
Edward and Susan Fitzgerald
Jill and Thomas French
Paul Gaynor and Karen Ketterer
Harvey and Irene George
Richard and Janet Comiskey Giannini
Grasshopper Tree & Landscape
Stephen Gulo and Alexis Dandreta
Vasilios Haseotes
William and Patricia Hayes
Felicia and Pope Hoffman
Iraj and Judith Hooshmand
Mark and Patricia Howe
Katherine Hunt
Paul Gaynor and Karen Ketterer
Frank Stufano and Marie Kieran
John and Judith Kordash
Molly and Elisha Lee
Samuel and Valerie Lin
Carol and Alan Lisbon
Charles Long

Kimberley and Andrew Phelan
Susan and Barnaby Porter
John Quackenbush and Mary Kalamaras
Izetta & Frederick Reis
James and Susan Repetti
Hadley Reynolds
Barry and Joan Roth
Jacob Sayer
Judith Schulz
Bente and Frederick Sears
Bruce Sooy and Marilyn Smith
James and Ruth Spalding
Leonard Spalding
George and Dorothy Stephenson
Nicholas and Marion Thisse
John Thorndike
Ying Sum Tsui
Nathan and Elizabeth Van Duzer
Katherine White
Stephen and Virginia White
C. Russell and Lauren Whittle
Richard and Geraldine Wise
Winston Wood
Betty Ng and Timothy Wu
Li Zhou and Xuan Xu

\$50 to 74

Mrs. Charles Adams
Thaddeus Bouchard
Jane Brace
Elizabeth Brady
T. Desmond Brown
Alison Campbell and Karl Jackson
Margaret and Tom Cross
Robert and Judy Davis
Margaret and Robert Derian
Dover Gas LLC - Dover Mobil
Michele Dupre and Minander Kocher
Jason and Wendy Evans
Dennis and Anne Feen
Elaine Fiske
Neil and Michelle Fitzpatrick
Edward and Ruth Fleischer
Kathleen Gill-Body and Simon Body
Adam and Cristina Gridley
Kristen and Scott Griebel
Katherine Groves
Kay Guild
Francis and Elizabeth Hagan
Kevin and Stephanie Hedrick
Eleanor and William Herd
Elise and Matthew Hicks
Eugene and Mary Hornsby

Louise Marlow and Steve Marini
Marion and John Martin
Jean McDonnell
John and Karen McGrath
William and Rachel Motley
Mark and Terre Newbert
Miriam O'Day
Roland Packard
Robert and Elizabeth Paisner
John and Elisabeth Palester
Avignat and Purvi Patel
Rodney and Rebecca Petersen
John and Margaret Quinlan
Howard and Robin Reisman
Elizabeth Rich
Nancy Roberts
Randolph Robinson
Katherine Russell
Beverly Ryburn
Philip and Beth Sagan
Kathleen Sanger York
Nicholas and Shirley Sarris
Lisa and Andrew Slotnick
David and Joan Stapleton
Benjamin and Kelly Taylor
Patricia and Philip Terrell

Christine Johnson
Kenneth and Priscilla Jones
Hilkat and Prasanna Kidambi
Stephen Kruskall
Virginia Leonard
Betsy and Henry Levinson
Robert and Leola Loebelenz
Joseph Marcus

The Dover Church
Edward and Heather Tourellotte
Courtenay Cabot Venton
Barbara Williams
Deirdre Windsor-Bailey
Marcy and David Yuknat
Amir and Shahnaz Zamani

Less than \$50

Anonymous
Bhaskar and Lynda Banerjee
Stephanie Billings
Albert and Karen Budney
Martha Castle
Charles River School
Elizabeth and Joseph Devine
Allen Erickson
Richard Foote and Susan Otis
Nicolaas Hackett

Barry and Ellen Libert
Mary Loeken
John and Molly Lynch
Sarah McBride
Francis and Colette McLaughlin
Scott and Catherine Miles
Anne Reitmayer and Richard Eels
Michael Warren and Dana Stephenson
James Weinberg

Gifts in Kind

Jay Crocker
Dover Market
Dover Wine Company
Richard and Janet Comiskey Giannini
Edward Knowles

Stephen Kruskall
Barbara Provest
Douglas Smith
John Sugden III
Campbell Yaw

Every effort is made to assure the accuracy of these lists. If there are errors, we apologize in advance. Please let us know via phone, email or website so we can correct our records for next time!

General Information

Please note that our museums are open to the public, free of charge, Saturday afternoons from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the spring (April – June) and fall (September – November). All visitors are welcome. The lower level of the Sawin Museum is especially enjoyable for children as there are many artifacts which they are welcome to try out.

Both museums are also available by special appointment. Contact the curators directly or leave a voicemail message of your request on the phone: 508-785-1832.

The Historical Society also has an exhibit of Richard H. Vara's watercolors on display at the Caryl Community Center, just off the lobby at the Springdale Avenue entrance. It too can be viewed, free of charge, whenever the Community Center is open (times vary).

Copies of the final edition of *Dover Days Gone By* by Richard Hart Vara are available for \$25.00 at both museums or by phone at the main Society number, 508-785-1832. There are also a limited number of hardbound copies still available for \$100.00. Call 508-785-0567 for further information and to order this item.

In addition, two companion guide books are available as above for \$3.00 each. They are: *Exploring the Center* and *Exploring: By Car, Boat, on Foot*.

Check out our website: www.doverhistoricalsociety.org and



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

The Dover Historical Society is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization supported by members, grants and donations.

Dover Tidings is published three times a year and is sent primarily to members. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so to avoid being dropped from the list. If you have already renewed, THANK YOU. If you would like to become a new member you can obtain a membership application at one of the museums or by calling the main number (508-785-1832) and leaving a voice mail message. Please be sure to leave your name and contact information.

**Dover Historical Society
P.O. Box 534
Dover, MA 02030
508-785-1832**