

DOVER TIDINGS

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Susanne M. Knowles
Editor

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

The President's Letter

In this issue of Tidings we shall consider the Joseph Chickering House at 87 Haven Street. Frank Smith tells us that the house was built by Joseph Chickering in 1747.



Joseph was born on May 5, 1717 to Nathaniel and Deborah (Wight) Chickering. He married Rebecca Newell, daughter of Josiah Newell and Hannah Fisher, on February 7, 1743 and four years later built this house on land that had been a part had been of the larger

Chickering Farm (now 55 Haven Street). In 1754, 38 year old Joseph Chickering, his six year old son and his four year old daughter all died within a seven day period leaving Rebecca a widow with two surviving children, eight year old Rebecca and one year old Jabez.



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On 2 March 1757 Rebecca Newell Chickering married Deacon Joseph Haven of Hopkinton. Haven had previously been married to Miriam Bayley, by whom he had seven children before her death in October of 1755. Deacon Haven and his five surviving children took up residence with Rebecca and her two children on her late husband's farm where he worked as a cordwainer or shoemaker, and was elected a deacon of the First Parish Church upon its organization in 1762.

In 1764 Joseph Haven's oldest son, Elias, married Jemima Whiting, sister of the local tavern keeper Captain Daniel Whiting, and settled near the intersection of Farm and Wight Streets. On April 19, 1775, he joined Captain Ebenezer Battelle's company of Minutemen and marched on Lexington. Elias Haven was killed near the Arlington Meeting House while fighting the British army on its retreat to Boston, the only Dover resident to lose his life in that engagement.

Both Deacon Haven's second son, Joseph, and his step-son, Jabez Chickering, prepared for college under the tutelage of local clergymen, Joseph with his father's first cousin, Reverend Jason Haven of Dedham and Jabez with Reverend Benjamin Caryl. Both attended Harvard College, graduating in the class of 1774, and entered the ministry. At the age of 23, Reverend Jabez Chickering was settled as minister of the Second Parish Church of Dedham (now the First Congregational Church of Norwood). In 1775 Reverend Joseph Haven became the minister of the First Congregational Church in Rochester, NH.

Deacon Haven's third son, Noah, removed to Holden by 1773 and married Olive Kingsbury of Natick in 1775. Noah Haven, too, was present on that fateful morning of April 19, 1775, serving as a Corporal in Captain James Davis's company of Minutemen. At some point after 1785 Noah Haven returned to Dover and lived with his father until the latter's death in 1801. With the death of Rebecca Chickering Haven in 1792 the property appears to have passed to her son, Reverend Jabez Chickering, who, in turn, conveyed it to his step-brother, Noah, in 1795. Noah died here in 1817. His only surviving son, John Haven, was graduated from Harvard in 1810 and became a minister in Dennis in 1814.

Deacon Haven's youngest son, John, followed his older brother and step-brother to Harvard where he studied medicine. On the morning of April 19th 1775, John Haven served in Captain Samuel Thatcher's company of Cambridge Minutemen. Upon his graduation in 1776 he became a ship's surgeon, serving on the brigantines Massachusetts and Freedom in 1777. He is said to have been lost at sea; however the date and circumstances of his death have not survived.

On May 23, 1820 Olive Haven, widow, Stephen Kingsbury, gentleman, and Olive, his wife, all of Franklin, and Joseph Haven of Dennis as heirs of Noah Haven, late of Dover, sold the property then identified as "6.75 acres and 25 rods of land with buildings thereon" to George Chickering, a great-nephew of the builder, for \$1,270.

Elisha Lee

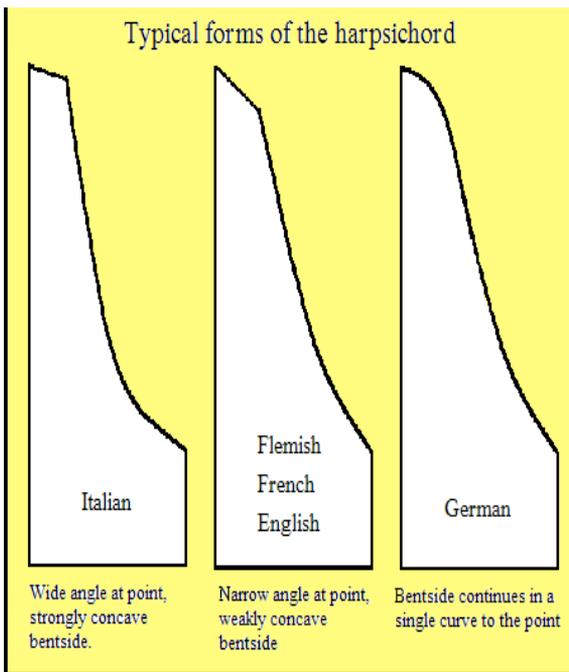
Caryl House

"Dashing though the hills and dales" came sleighs and wagons with foot warmers to attend the annual Holiday gathering at the Reverend Benjamin Caryl's House. The gathering allows neighbors to exchange information within

the community, to learn new techniques in domestic arts and to establish the crops to plant in the Spring.

At the December 2014 Holiday Open House, a demonstration in the domestic arts was provided by Deb Devine (Deb is indirectly related to the Devine Family of Dover). Deb demonstrated the art of soap making blending different plant oils into soap bars. Everyone enjoyed the presentation. Deb's handcrafted natural plant oil soap is available to purchase; her e-mail is deb.devine7@gmail.com. In the 1770's soap making was a long process, yet soaps lasted as bathing was not done frequently.

As people came to share news with friends and neighbors, they also joined in singing Christmas carols led by Diane Jones and her son, Michael. They were accompanied on the special harpsichord made for her by her late husband after he retired from the Dover Police Department.



The harpsichord is an instrument that could have been found in the Caryl's house in the 1770's. It was popular between the 14th and 18th centuries before the piano arrived on the musical scene. What is the difference between the harpsichord and the modern piano? They are both string instruments. One of the major differences is that the harpsichord's hammers pluck the strings and a piano's hammers strike the strings. An additional difference is the number of octaves, with the harpsichord having five octaves and a piano having seven. Usually

the keys on a harpsichord are slimmer than the piano keys. There is no pedal on the harpsichord and thus one cannot sustain, increase or decrease the volume of sound to add nuance to the music.

Harpsichords went through an evolution throughout the centuries and changed depending on the country of origin. They were decorated with fine art from the countries in which they were crafted. The shape of the harpsichord also changed from the Italian to the Flemish-French-English and the German musical instrument over its evolution. At its peak, the harpsichord was an important instrument. Many famous composers including J.S. Bach and Handel wrote

music for it. After the 18th century and early 19th, the harpsichord lost its position in the music world to the piano or pianoforte, its proper name. The primary reason was that the pedal on the piano which allowed the player to sustain, increase or decrease the sound from the instrument.

After World War II, the harpsichord found favor within the music world once again. Some interest in the revival of this instrument was influenced by Boston makers Frank Hubbard and William Dowd who did research on the instrument. Also Wolfgang Zuchermann developed a kit to build harpsichords in the 1950's that increased interest in this musical instrument. Many people now enjoy the music of Baroque composers played on the instrument for which it was written.

I hope you are planning your fields for this year's upcoming crops. Come visit the Caryl House this spring.

Janet Comiskey-Giannini
Curator, The Caryl House

References: "Jingle Bells" concept—James S. Pierpont Britannica.com and Wikipedia.org
Harpsichord and Piano and Clavier search

Cold

Has this been a particularly bad winter? The New England colonists and Northern Europeans suffered through unusually brutal winters and colder climate generally from about 1350 to 1850 (the earlier date depends on the source consulted). This interval is called the Little Ice Age. It had far-reaching political consequences. In 1658, parts of the Baltic Sea froze enough so that a Swedish force of 12,000 (infantry and cavalry) was able to march across the ice from Jutland to Funen (about one kilometer) to Zealand (16 kilometers with stops on two small islands), defeating the Danes. It's hard to imagine the risk involved. The Thames froze regularly between 1607 and 1814. New York Harbor froze in 1780 and it was possible to walk between Manhattan and Staten Island. Boston harbor froze over several times between 1630 and the mid-1700s.

New England was (and remains) particularly inhospitable in winter. Nearly forgotten is the earlier Popham Colony, settled in 1607 in Maine, but abandoned after a year. The Mayflower reached Plymouth on December 21, 1620 and 45 of the 102 passengers died during the first winter, an inauspicious beginning for a settlement originally destined for the Virginia Colony. The Pilgrims may not have been hardier, but they were certainly more determined to make a permanent settlement despite the adverse conditions. Only 11 dwellings were built during that first winter. It's likely that the colony would not have survived without the help of the local natives, notably Samoset, Squanto and Massasoit, who had good reason to worry about the colonists' intentions. Fifty-three colonists (and only four adult women) survived to celebrate what we call "The First Thanksgiving" in November 1621. It's difficult to see the attraction to such a way of life, but between 1630 and 1640 the Great Migration brought about 20,000 Puritans and the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and by 1691 Plymouth had ceased to be an independent entity.

Fast forward to 1888. As mentioned, Massachusetts had some extreme winter weather before the Great Blizzard but the storm of March 11 – 14 set new records

for severity. Parts of the state had as much as 50 inches of snow and drifts of 30 to 40 feet. Telegraph lines snapped and Boston and other large cities were cut off for several days. The blizzard also provided incentive for the construction of the first Boston subway line in 1897, which, as of this writing, is still running at reduced capacity. We have seen all previous records shattered during this winter. This is one project that is truly shovel-ready

Richard White.

Curator, The Fisher Barn

Sawin Museum

It is a pleasure to report that rearranging exhibit spaces at the Sawin Museum is making excellent progress. As usual it has been a communal effort engaging Society members and others since the tasks involved logging (namely felling white pines east of the Museum), the moving of heavy bulky furniture and general reorganization. If I am finding that delving into Dover's past at the Sawin is most rewarding, it is certainly partially because of Pam Kunkemueller's and now Eileen White's enthusiastic assistance, not to mention Patty Howe's knowledge of the whereabouts of just about everything!

The lobby now has a cupboard with shelves exhibiting publications for sale. Amelia Peabody's dollhouse and the large map case supporting it have been moved upstairs from the main room, making space for the display of the famous late 18th century Williams Tavern chair currently being restored and upholstered. Above it will hang the tavern sign, one of the most iconic objects in the Sawin's collection.



Space has been created on the top floor by moving several items to the Caryl House and we propose a display of children's toys with Miss Peabody's dollhouse taking pride of place.

Thanks to the Board's decision to fund substantial renovations and reorganization of the basement, a much needed secure storage area has been created, thereby eliminating clutter. The unsightly fuel tank is now encased and

the furnace will be shielded from view. Equally important, attractive modular plastic tiles to cover the rather shabby cement floor have been installed. This will turn the basement into a light and attractive display area for traditional cooking and household items, as well as tools from trades once practiced in Dover. It is here that, thanks to Lori Carbone and Priscilla Jones, third graders from Chickering Elementary will continue to enjoy a hands-on experience of the way kitchens functioned and craftsmen worked in the past.

Stuart Swiny
Curator, The Sawin Museum

Fifth Annual Preservation Award

July 14, 2014 will long be remembered in Dover as the date of the senseless destruction of the 1724 Joseph Draper House, the oldest structure in Town still on its original site, at 6 Farm Street. This year's Preservation Award honors Sara Molyneaux, who worked tirelessly for eight years to save the Draper House. Failure in no way tarnishes her magnificent effort. She worked with the Friends of the Draper House, a group of concerned citizens and descendants of prior owners, who donated enough funds to enable the House to be dismantled and relocated. She gathered experts to assess the historic importance of the House



and its interior and determine the best way to move the house. She interacted with the owners, attorneys, and relevant Town officials. All aspects of the project have been documented. Her vision and total commitment to historic preservation are extraordinary.

Sara's knowledge of preservation and her access to experts in the field inform all of her decisions. Her commitment to environmental responsibility and resource efficiency helps her make wise decisions. Moving to Dover in 1979, she and her

husband, Don Law, are stewards of their circa. 1735 home in which Minuteman Jabez Baker, who is buried in Highland Cemetery, lived. They have taken steps to insure that the important facades of their iconic farmhouse and landscape of meadows and pond will continue to exist through restrictions worked out with the Trustees of Reservations and the Dover Land Conservation Trust.

Hopefully, the loss of the Draper House re-emphasizes the importance of preservation in Dover. First Period and other later built but no less historic homes are not being created, so it is of paramount importance to honor, cherish, and plan for those that we still have. In addition to the Trustees of Reservations, Historic New England's stewardship program offers preservation opportunities. Currently more than 80 properties are protected under this program. The National Trust for Historic Preservation also offers programs, which protect properties with historic, architectural, or archaeological significance. Despite the honor of having a home listed on the National Register of Historic Sites, protection from change does not follow.

It is important for the current, knowledgeable homeowner to act. We all know of situations where well-intentioned children advise against any restrictions lest they make the property more difficult to sell. In fact, restrictions can increase the value of the property while contributing to the landscape, which makes Dover so unique. In many cases tax deductions may be received.

The Historical Society hopes to identify houses which should be considered as high priorities for preservation. The Open Space Committee has established a precedent worthy of being followed. Anyone interested in volunteering to help launch such an effort should contact me.

Jill French, Priscilla Jones, Sara Molyneaux, and Charlotte Surgenor consider nominations from the community each year for the Preservation Award. Thank you to all who participated this year.

Priscilla Pitt Jones

Vara Exhibit at the Caryl Community Center

The Caryl Community Center is the site of a new exhibit of watercolor paintings by Dover Historian Richard H. Vara presented by the Dover Historical Society. Some of these watercolors are included in Vara's recently republished (2010) *Dover Days Gone By*, but none has been previously exhibited full-size or in color. In addition to his love of history, his storytelling ability and his great affection for all things Dover, Vara was an accomplished artist producing countless pen and ink drawings as well as watercolors which he willed to the Historical Society. Full of life, good humor and vibrant color, the drawings tell stories of life in Dover as Vara imagined its characters and activities, primarily in the 19th century.

Featured are 12 individual watercolors mounted in two groups of six with three panels of text explaining the overall exhibit and each group. This space is newly offered to the Society as part of the Caryl Community Center's efforts to update, renovate and revitalize the old Caryl School as a new space for the whole community to gather. Frames are permanently mounted so that exhibits can rotate from time to time. This colorful inaugural exhibit is designed to appeal to

young and old alike as it adds character, interest and charm to a previously blank wall immediately to the right of the Springdale Avenue entrance.

The first group highlights the original commercial center of Town at the corner of Main, Farm and Springdale Avenue known as Bliss's Corner. Here several businesses important to the agricultural needs of the community developed while the present center remained primarily open farm land surrounding the Meeting House which was located in the geographical center. The railroad came across this open farm land in the 1850s and commercial activity gradually shifted



to take advantage of the opportunities it provided, especially after fires destroyed a number of the buildings at Bliss's Corner.

The second group focuses on various aspects of later activities which catered to a larger and more diverse population. It includes Dover's "practical Town Hall", which was destroyed by a cyclone before its completion, two views of the Center around 1900, Ben Sawin in his "Grove", and the use and reuse of the "North School" which became housing for the workers of Valley Farm Dairy which operated well into the 20th century.

The exhibit can be viewed whenever the Caryl Community Center is open, usually Monday through Saturday all day and whenever there are evening activities. Copies of *Dover Days Gone By* are available for sale, softcover for \$25.00 and limited edition, signed hard copies for \$100. Contact the Society by phone, 508-785-1832 or doverhistoricalsociety.org. They are also available at the Sawin Museum and Caryl House Saturday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 PM April through June and September through November.

The photograph on the preceding page shows the exhibit as it was for the March 7 Open House. Placement of permanent signage, which is to be acquired and installed by the Town, will be forthcoming soon.

Pam Kunkemueller

Dover Historical Society Officers And Board Members

Elected at the Annual Meeting March 25, 2015

President	Elisha Lee	(508)785-1653	eleejr@verizon.net
Vice President	Jack Hoehlein	(508)479-1937	jhoehlein@hotmail.com
Secretary	Priscilla Jones	(508)785-0236	priscillapjones@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Sue Fitzgerald	(508)785-2161	susanjfitzgerald@comcast.net
Caryl House Curator	Janet Comiskey Giannini	(508)785-0253	janetcomiskey@comcast.net
Fisher Barn Curator	Richard White	(508)785-3197	whitefork@verizon.net
Sawin Museum Curator	Stuart Swiny	(508)785-0229	sswiny@albany.edu
Hospitality	Dorothy Boylan	(508)785-1980	DLBoylan@att.net
Public Programs	Clare Burke	(508)785-1357	clareburke@comcast.net
Publications	Pam Kunkemueller	(508)785-0567	PSKunks2@aol.com
Public Relations	Open		
School Programs	Lori Carbone	(774)893-4024	loricarbone1@gmail.com
Volunteers	Ursula Gray	(508)785-9947	ursulagray1@verizon.net
At Large	Kevin Shale	(617)266-1360	kshale@mac.com

Advisory Board

Pam Kunkemueller	Sue Knowles	Barbara Provest
Dale Cabot	Shirley McGill	Judy Schulz
Heather Hodgson DePaola	Barbara Palmer	Dan Wilcox
Patty Howe	Kim Phelan	Deirdre Windsor-Bailey

Spring 2015 Docent Schedule

DATE	CARYL HOUSE	SAWIN MUSEUM
April 4	Janet Comiskey	Pam Kunkemueller
April 11	Kay Guild	Nancy Adams
April 18	Priscilla Jones	Pam Kunkemueller
April 25	Barbara Palmer	Stuart Swiny
May 2	Clare Burke	Pam Kunkemueller
May 9	Dale Cabot	Patty Howe
May 16	Sue Knowles	Priscilla Jones
May 23	Janet Comiskey	Clare Burke
May 30	Kevin Shale	Stuart Swiny
June 6	Nancy Ferguson	Pam Kunkemueller
June 13	Amy Wilcox	Pam Kunkemueller
June 20	Richard White	Stuart Swiny
June 27	Janet Comiskey	Pam Kunkemueller
Sunday, June 7, 2 – 4 PM	Caryl House Garden Party - docents –Priscilla Jones, Pam Kunkemueller, Stuart Swiny; flowers-Janet Comiskey, Priscilla Jones, Miriam O'Day; refreshments- Janet Comiskey, Ursula Gray, Patty Howe, Priscilla Jones	

Docents: If you cannot arrive at your scheduled time, please contact the curator.

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, May 2nd at 10 AM. Saturday Walk to the Old Iron Mill

Elisha Lee, President of the Society, will conduct a walk to Dover's Old Iron Mill. Meet in the parking lot by the tennis courts at 10 AM. Rain Date: Saturday, May 9th. For further information, call Clare Burke at 508-785-1357.

Wednesday, May 6th at 7:30 PM Harvard and Religion

At the Dover Library, Lower Level. Rodney L. Petersen, PhD, will speak on *Harvard and Religion: College, Church, and State: The Origins of an American Sense of Church/Community, Governance, and Education*.

A Research Associate at Boston University, Dr. Petersen also serves as executive director of The Lord's Day Alliance, the organization that fostered the weekend in the United States, and as executive director of Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries in Boston. Prior to coming to these positions he was executive director of the Boston Theological Institute (BTI), the consortium of theological schools, seminaries, and university divinity schools in the Greater Boston area. Dr. Petersen, his wife Rebecca, and their family live in Dover. He serves on the town Warrant Committee and on the Board of Deacons at The Dover Church.

Saturday, May 16th from 2 to 3 PM Spinning/Weaving Demonstration

At the Caryl House, 107 Dedham St. Barbara Provest, spinner and weaver who restored the loom at the Caryl House, will give a spinning and weaving demonstration. A teacher at the American History Textile Museum, Barbara has been active in the Boston area textile community for more than 40 years. She is a member of the Society's Advisory Board.

Sunday, June 7th, from 2 to 4 PM Garden Party at the Caryl House

107 Dedham St. All are invited. Refreshments will be served.