

DOVER TIDINGS

Fall 2013



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Editor

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Mark Your Calendar

September 7th through November 30th Museum Open Houses
Open houses at Caryl House and Fisher Barn, 107 Dedham St. and the Sawin Museum, 80 Dedham St., from 1 to 4 PM each Saturday from September 7 through November 30.

Sunday, October 6 Old Home Day
A Dover celebration for all ages! See schedule in this issue of Dover Tidings.

Wednesday, October 23, at 7:30 PM Energy Retrofits and the Historic Home
At the Dover Library, Lower Level. Sally Zimmerman, Senior Preservation Services Manager at Historic New England, will speak on *Energy Retrofits and the Historic Home: Weighing Risks and Opportunities*. Refreshments will be served.

Thursday, November 21, 2013 at 7:30 PM Maintenance for Historic Homes
At the Dover Library, Lower Level. Joseph Cornish, Supervising Preservation Services Manager at Historic New England, will speak on *Routine Maintenance Advice for Owners of Historic Homes*. Refreshments will be served.

Sunday, December 8, 2013 from 2 to 4 PM Holiday Open House
At the Caryl House, 107 Dedham St. Please join us for a celebration of the holiday season. Enjoy festive decorations and seasonal music. Period refreshments will be served.

The President's Letter

Readers with an interest in Dover's oldest homes may have noticed the Tisdale House situated at the corner of Walpole and Hartford Streets. Local historian Frank Smith tells us that this house was built for Captain Henry Tisdale in 1774. Given its extraordinary similarity to the Benjamin Caryl House, it is probable that the Tisdale House was also built by Ralph Day of Dedham Street (1717-1795). Henry Tisdale was born in Lebanon, CT in 1750, one of three brothers who settled in Dover and Medfield just prior to the Revolution. On January 4, 1774 he was married by Reverend Benjamin Caryl to Sarah Fisher, daughter of Samuel Fisher and his second wife, Mary Chickering. Sarah's maternal Grandfather was Samuel Chickering, the original settler of Powissett Street, and the Tisdale land is said to have been a part of the Samuel Chickering estate. Henry Tisdale was a hatter by trade and he is said to have left a beaver hat on his work bench to join Captain Ebenezer Battelle's Company of Minute Men as they gathered on the morning of April 19, 1775.



With Henry Tisdale's death in 1814 the property passed to his son, Captain James Tisdale (1780-1854) who married Olive Smith in 1805. James Tisdale was a noted auctioneer with a quick wit whose misadventure while attempting to gather cranberries from a flooded section of the brook that runs just south of the house earned him the nickname "Admiral" and caused the brook to be known ever after as Tubwreck Brook. His actual title was acquired while serving as a cavalry officer during the War of 1812. In addition, James Tisdale was the official keeper of the Dedham & Hartford Turnpike's toll house which was situated opposite his house on what is now Hartford Street. The

Turnpike, chartered in 1804 and built in 1806, served as the main road between Dedham and Hartford, CT. James Tisdale's in-laws, Elijah and Rebecca Hastings, resided in the toll house and were charged with collecting the gate fees.

On James Tisdale's death in 1854 the property passed to his son, William Atribes Tisdale (1813-1893) who married his second cousin, Sybil Clark Tisdale, in 1839. Smith notes that William Tisdale was a man of considerable musical ability and that in those years the house was home to a neighborhood orchestra in which William played the flute, his wife Sybil the piano, and his uncle Fisher Tisdale the tambourine, triangle, and bells.

With William's death in 1893 his son Ansel Tisdale sold the property to John Valentine Schaffner (1861-1936). At some point between 1894 and 1899 Schaffner constructed the existing barn and relocated the old toll house from its original site on the opposite side of Hartford Street to the rear of his house. In 1937, the property, which then encompassed 70 acres, was conveyed by the John V. Schaffner heirs to his widow, Mary. With the death of Mary Schaffner in 1948 the farm was subdivided and the house lot reduced to slightly more than three acres.

Elisha F. Lee

Caryl House Fife

It has been an exciting few months for me as the new curator of the Caryl House. I am impressed with the way all the past curators including the most recent Barbara Palmer and the Historical Society as a group have taken care of the Caryl House. Also, I wish to thank all the docents who generously give of their time to share their knowledge to the visitors to the Caryl House. Some of the docents come from a major Revolutionary history background; some docents have a major interest in architecture. Most have a genuine concern in having Dover's history passed onto the new generation of Dover folks. Look for a new column in this issue of Tidings introducing our volunteers.

Who are the folks that come to visit the Rev Benjamin Caryl House? The majority of the people are from outside of Dover visiting the recreational areas of Dover –the parks and roads of our town. Many drive by the house to and from work everyday and bring their family to visit and learn. They wish to learn about the House and what it means to the Town of Dover and who was Rev. Benjamin Caryl.

Benjamin Caryl was the first minister in Dover, the current Dover Church, for 50 years along with being a local farmer and teacher for boys

going to Harvard or Brown. Being a minister for 50 years in a single town was and is still an amazing fact of life. Recently the book entitled *The Religious World of Rev. Benjamin Caryl III* by Dr. Steve Marini was released for sale through the Dover Historical society. Dr. Marini has some interesting insight about the minister and his thoughts of that time period---mid 18th century. Dr. Marini recently did an interview on Local Cable Television which will be airing late summer / fall of 2013. Look for the program on your cable station.

One of the recent visitors to the Caryl House was a musician with a flute background. He noticed the FIFE, a pipe reed with a small shrill-tone musical instrument resembling a flute. It was Joseph Caryl's (grandson of Benjamin) instrument. It was made by a Boston musical instrument maker, William Callender (1756-1839). The Fife was produced about the 1803-1818 time period and the standard dating places them in the middle about 1810-11. The Fife has the key of B-flat (Bb) --- a military key. These instruments were used in marching bands that were very common at that time and for evening entertainment. This visitor, Tyler, generously gave of his time and did a simple conserving of the Fife. He suggested a professional conserving of the instrument.

One can play a simple octave on this fife after all these years. Callender's Fifes can also be found at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts as well as the Lexington, Quincy, and Fitchburg Historical Societies.

As a Dover resident have you recently enjoyed a visit to the Caryl House? Do you know that the Caryl House is now dated as being built in 1774 vs 1776, thus making it a pre-revolution home? Maybe that knowledge will spark your interest in Dover's history and inspire you to become involved in the Society or volunteer as a docent for the Historical Buildings of the Society—Caryl House, Fisher Barn or Sawin Museum. Are you a high school student thinking of being a history major? Maybe volunteer as a junior docent and further develop your interest and knowledge in history.

You can call me or Lynn McGill (volunteer coordinator) to see what becoming a docent involves. We and the other members of the Historical Society invite you to visit the Caryl House to learn and appreciate our town's unique history.

Janet Comiskey-Giannini
Curator, Caryl House

Who were those Fishers, anyway?

Frank Smith's *Dover Farms* (1914) gives us the name John Fisher of Needham. Philip A Fisher's genealogy (1946, Everett) was digitized (and rendered nearly unreadable) by Google, but we can decipher most of the family history.

The Fishers were English Puritans and came to the Colonies in the 1630s to escape religious persecution. Anthony Fisher of Suffolk England (1591-1672) and his wife Mary arrived in Boston in 1637 and settled in Dedham with their children.

Daniel (born in 1619 in England, died in Dedham 1683) married Abigail Marriott of Cambridge. He served as sergeant in the Ancient and Honorable Artillery and was a surveyor and selectman in Dedham.

From this union was born Captain John Fisher (1656-1736). He served in King Philip's war for most of 1676 and settled in Needham in 1681 and was chairman of the Board of Selectmen. He married Rebecca Ellis of Dedham in 1681. She survived him by 4 years and both are buried in Needham.

He left his son John Fisher (born in Dedham, 1688-1757) "land east of the brook which was by the house where I now dwell, also tract called The Neck lying upon Charles River to the south". John married Elisabeth Hunting of Dedham in 1709. He was a schoolteacher, selectman, representative in the General Court, town clerk and treasurer.

Next in line was The Deacon John Fisher (Needham, 1717-1788). He was deacon of the Needham Church, selectman and representative. He married twice, Mary Fuller who died in 1759, and Hannah Crosby (died in Vermont in 1798). His headstone in Needham is the ever-popular light verse

*Behold & see as you pass by,
As you are now so once was I.
As I am now so you must be
Prepare for Death and follow me*

Finally arrives our John Fisher (Needham, 1744-1778?). He married Mary Metcalf of Dedham and served in Ebenezer Battle's company at the battle of Lexington and later at Castle Island. As far as can be determined, there were no children from this marriage.

So, we're left with the mute testimony of what is very possibly, but not certainly, his barn. For the want of an epitaph for this last John, I'll close with Job via Herman Melville

And only I am escaped alone to tell thee.

Richard White
Curator, The Fisher Barn

Spotlight on Volunteers

Founded in the Spring of 1895, the Dover Historical and Natural History Society sought to document local history and promote a knowledge of natural history. From its inception, volunteers have made everything happen. These occasional columns will feature one or two volunteers who have made and/or continue to make a difference.

Beverly Ryburn has lived in Town for 60 years and became involved with the Caryl House through her interest in crewel. Many of her friends were reproducing Sarah Caryl's bed hangings and although she did not add one stitch, she became fascinated with the House and its history. She particularly has enjoyed the music of Diane and Michael Jones at holiday time, enabling friends to come together and sing together. Watching Barbara Provost get children involved with weaving has been a recent highlight. Over the years she often was the docent in Reverend Caryl's study, sharing her knowledge of his teaching and sermons. She looks forward to reading Steve Marini's book. An avid gardener, growing 187 lady slippers one year and writing about them for Horticulture, she continues to provide lovely flower arrangements whenever needed. She hopes more people will come to know the Caryl House.

After 35 years in Town, Louise Crane now lives at New Pond Village, but she continues to come back on a regular basis. Old Home Day is on her calendar. A committed volunteer, she was involved with the Norfolk Hunt and the March of Dimes Art Show. She was drawn to the Historical Society because she cherished the historic dwellings in Town and enjoyed understanding how people lived in the past and visualizing what everyday life was like. Most visitors will remember her in period costume in the kitchen, encouraging them to sign the guest book. She was a regular member of the group, which met each Wednesday morning to inventory the Caryl collection as we worked from one room to the next. It is her hope that more people will join our ranks of volunteers.

Priscilla Pitt Jones

Autumn 2013 Docent Schedule

Saturdays, 1 – 4 PM

	Caryl House	Sawin Museum
09/07/13	Priscilla Jones	Fay Bacher
09/14/13	Nancy Ferguson	Clare Burke
09/21/13	Nan Leonard	Dorothy Boylan
09/28/13	Priscilla Jones	Jack Hoehlein
10/05/13	Beth Sagan	Richard White
10/12/13	Ursula Grey	Amy Wilcox
10/19/13	Richard White	Pam Kunkemueller
10/26/13	Sue Knowles	Fay Bacher
11/02/13	Pam Kunkemueller	Clare Burke
11/09/13	Amy Wilcox	Ursula Grey
11/16/13	Dale Cabot	Beth Sagan
11/23/13	Janet Comiskey Giannini	Patty Howe
11/30/13	Janet Comiskey Giannini	Jack Hoehlein

Dover Historical Society Officers and Board Members

President	Elisha Lee	(508)785-1653	eleejr@verizon.net
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Sawin Museum Curator	Fay Bacher		
Fund Raising	Heather Hodgson	(508)785-1977	UnpackingSolutions @comcast.net
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Public Relations	Sue Knowles	(508)785-0858	susanneknowles@aol.com
School Programs	Lauri Carbone	(774)893-4024	lauripaulc@comcast.net
Volunteers	Lynn McGill	(508)785-0005	lynnlmcgill@yahoo.com

Old Home Day 2013

Sunday, October 6th

Noon – **Ringing of the Dover Church Bells**

Noon - **Antique Auto Show & Parade (at 2:00)** - Militia Field across from Library
Hounds and horses from the Norfolk Hunt Club arrive after 1:45 to lead the parade. *Please vote for the Best Car in Show! Visit the hounds.*

Noon – 2 PM - **Lunch on Town Green** –Captain Marden’s Cod Squad

Noon – 4 PM - **Sawin Museum** – 80 Dedham Street

An exhibit highlighting ?. McGregor McGehee will provide music.
The café will be open selling historic cakes and other goodies.

Noon – 4:00PM - **Caryl House** – 107 Dedham Street

Textile Arts- weaving and spinning in the Kitchen Chamber. Hooking rugs too!
Silhouettes by Carol Lebeaux classic hand-cut of children, families & pets (bring photo). To schedule a 10-minute appointment call 785-1977. Walk-ins fine too!
Field Day - Games start at **3:00PM**. Old-fashioned children’s games including tug-a-war, three-legged race, potato-sack race, and the infamous egg toss!

Noon – 4:00PM - **Fisher Barn** – 107 Dedham Street

Checkers Champion - Come match wits with past state champion Richard White.

4:45PM - **Ceremony for Disposal of Unserviceable Flags** - American Legion Hall
Music provided by High School’s Chorus. *Bring a flag for disposal.*

5:30PM – **Old Fashioned Grange Supper** - American Legion, 32 Dedham Street .
Hand Carved Ham & Turkey with Bean Supper catered by Dover raised Geoff Janowski owner of Blue Ribbon BarBQ! *Come one come all* - \$12 Adults & \$8 Seniors/Children. For supper reservations contact Heather Hodgson at 785-1977 or oldhomeday@comcast.net