

DOVER TIDINGS

Fall 2009



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Susanne M. Knowles
Editor

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

A Message from the President...

Visitors to the Sawin Museum will find a small collection of Native American artifacts on the second floor, including both stone tools and a number of baskets. While not particularly comprehensive, the collection is of interest in that it spans roughly 6,000 years of human occupation.

Native Americans first arrived in New England with the retreat of the



Ice Age roughly 10,000 years ago. However, the majority of the stone artifacts in our collection can be reliably dated by their size and shape to the Late Archaic period, between 3,000 and 6,000 years ago. The people of the Late Archaic period

were hunter gatherers, migrating from one camp site to another on a seasonal basis. Distinguishing characteristics of the period include the use of local lithics, or stone materials, in the manufacture of tools, and indeed, both a seasonal camp site and a number of prehistoric felsite quarries can be seen today at Hale Reservation.

The Native Americans of our area were known as Massachuset, this being an Algonquian word meaning "at the great hill". At the time of the first European contact there were said to be as many as 3,000 Massachuset, living in some 20 villages between present day Salem and Plymouth. By 1631 their number had dropped to less than 500 and shortly thereafter Reverend John Eliot gathered the surviving Massachuset into 14 "praying Indian" villages including Natick. With

the onset of King Philip's War in 1675 virtually all of the Christian Indian population was forcibly removed to Deer Island in Boston Harbor, where many died of starvation and exposure. With the cessation of hostilities a few dispossessed survivors returned to Natick; however their population continued to diminish and, by 1797 only 20 remained. Several local histories make mention of these survivors peddling their split ash basketry here in Dover and it is highly likely that this was the source of the specimens in our collection.

Many of the artifacts in our collection were undoubtedly found while walking plowed fields many years ago, and it is unfortunate that the specific locations at which they were discovered have not survived. Readers who have been so fortunate as to find additional artifacts are urged to contact the Society in the hope that we may broaden our knowledge of our earliest residents.

Elisha Lee

Caryl House

*There's rosemary, that's for remembrance; pray,
love, remember: and there is pansies, that's for thoughts.
~Shakespeare, Hamlet, Act IV, scene v.*

Ophelia's words returned to me repeatedly this spring as Ellen Little and former Caryl Curator Dorothy Boylan introduced me to the wonders of the kitchen garden at the Caryl House. In truth, I brought little to the table. I am not a gardener and my historical training was conspicuously thin when it came to the importance of common herbs and flowers to everyday life in the early years of the republic. But I learned! Beebalm can soothe a bee sting and provides red blooms in July. The root of our beautiful rue can be used to produce a natural red dye. The edible petals of the pot marigold are yummy in salads and camomile makes a calming tea.

Once again the Caryl House acknowledges with gratitude the generosity of the Chicatabot and Dover Garden Clubs. As a result of their support, the outside exhibits are being expanded for 2010 with the addition of bayberries, at least two American hazelnut trees (minimum required if you want nuts!) and a tiny crop of flax to aid in interpreting the process of making linen. The Caryl gardens are essential to our mission of interpreting the past, but they are also "high maintenance." Most items in our collection are content to be cataloged, numbered, documented, and

displayed. The gardens demand to be populated with examples of heirloom varieties, planted, transplanted, fertilized, watered, groomed and weeded. From April through October they provide a satisfying service opportunity. We are forming a committee under Dorothy Boylan's leadership to insure the continued vitality of the gardens. Please indicate your interest in joining us in this important work by calling Dorothy at 508-785-1980.

Each June the Caryl House looks forward to visits from the Chickering second graders. This year it was my pleasure to join Patty Howe and Priscilla Jones in welcoming them. They were a spunky bunch, oozing curiosity and to our delight, demonstrating irrepressible enthusiasm for history. We were happy to have captured their attention, however briefly, and thus to be reminded of the importance of our programs for young people. One young lady stands out. She showed up again the following Saturday with her entire family in tow, announcing her intention to give them a tour such as the one she had received. The docent quite happily assumed the role of supporting actress in this tableau as the budding young historian did a first rate job of replicating the high points of her earlier visit. Whether history becomes her passing fancy, a delightful avocation or a life's work, it matters not. It matters that Caryl ignited an interest that might otherwise have remained latent.

I am nearing my first anniversary with the DHS, having been a "walk on" last year, helping Glenda Mattes at the Sawin. Still finding my way in some respects, I have come to know the personal satisfaction that derives from participating in the delivery of our educational programs. To sustain and expand them, the Society needs broader participation from its members. Please consider igniting your own latent interests by taking part fully in the Society's activities. I am grateful to all of you who have helped me learn the ropes and welcomed me so warmly.

The Caryl House invites visitors Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. September 12 through November 21. Two special events crown the season: Old Home Day on October 4th and the traditional Holiday Party, Sunday, December 6th. Please mark your calendar now so that you may start your holiday season with jaunty caroling, tasty treats made from 18th century recipes, the cozy warmth of the fire, and the company of friends and neighbors.

Barbara H. Palmer
Caryl House Curator

Fisher Barn

The historic Fisher Barn has been part of the Dover community since the 1770's. Originally erected along the banks of the Charles River on the Dover-Needham border, it was saved from demolition in 2000 thanks to the grass roots "Old Barn for A New Millenium" effort by concerned Dover residents. The historic barn was taken apart, piece-by-piece and reconstructed in the current location on Dedham Street near Caryl Park in Dover. The Fisher Barn provides a perfect compliment to the Caryl House, the home of Dover's first minister and doctor. The Fisher Barn is a showcase for Dover's rich agricultural history displaying many artifacts of years past. It is a true community treasure and a bridge to Dover's rich history.

School children, history buffs and interested residents have frequented the Fisher Barn to learn of the Barn's history, agricultural and homestead tools of the past along with Dover's dairy farm history and life as it was when Dr. Benjamin Caryl was a prominent town citizen.

As with any historic building, it must be cared for and preserved. Currently, the Fisher Barn needs additional structural repairs that must be dealt with in a prompt manner. The original 1770's timber used as a cross floor support beam is starting to crack. The fragile floor beams impact the weight bearing roof and wall beams, and it is critical that we address this issue before the first snowfall.

Elisha Lee, President of the Society, notes that repairs for historic buildings can often be a costly undertaking. To offset some of the cost for repairs to the Barn and other Dover Historical Society projects, there will be a Wine Tasting Fund Raiser. The event is sponsored by Higgins Wine & Spirits and the Servais-Weiner-Hoehlein Group of Morgan Stanley. All proceeds of the event will go directly to the repairs required.

The event will be on Sunday, Sept. 13th from 4:00 to 6:30 PM on the Fisher Barn grounds. Tammy Lamenzo, local wine connoisseur from Higgins Wine & Spirits, will host the event. A \$20 donation would be appreciated.

Helping to preserve and save the Fisher Barn, while learning about and tasting exciting new wines is a winning combination. If you are unable to attend the event, but would like to make a contribution, please contact me at 781- 479-1937 or email at jhoehlein@hotmail.com.

Jack Hoehlein

Fisher Barn Curator

Sawin Museum

In the last issue of Tidings, we noted our desire to fulfill Dick Vara's idea of having an example of a turn-of-the-century kitchen in the Sawin Museum basement. We feel this will provide a wonderful learning experience for the local children, and adults, who visit the museum, by providing staging for our extensive collection of antique household items. It will demonstrate and teach how home life has changed dramatically since the early 1900's.

We, however, need your help.

If you have any appropriate furnishings or items for the exhibit, either in your basements, attics, or barns, please, consider us for a temporary, or permanent home for these related items. We need items such as, a table and chairs, a hutch, shelving, a pie cabinet, pictures, etc... If you should see such items in your travels, i.e., used furniture stores, etc, please contact us at the Dover Historical Society (508-785-1932). We will gladly discuss and evaluate the items, accordingly. Given the recent financial downturn, we have financial constraints, as many do, and would prefer a loan or gift, but will consider a purchase, if necessary and appropriate.

Please assist us in developing this valuable experience for future museum visitors. Thank you for your time and consideration in assisting us with this endeavor.

Fay Bacher

Sawin Museum Curator

Memorial Day/Veteran's Day Exhibits

As some of you are aware, the Dover Historical Society had a Memorial Day exhibit at the Dover Library in May and June, which honored Dover's war dead. We were very pleased by the positive response and feedback it received. We exhibited various World War I and II related artifacts, along with information related specifically to our local heroes.

We would like to repeat the exhibit again in May 2010 with different artifacts. If you have any appropriate artifacts from more recent wars, i.e. Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Gulf War, Iraq, or, Afghanistan, we would gladly consider using them in the exhibit. We would accept these as either loans or gifts to be added to our collection.

In November, we plan to have an exhibit at the Dover Library honoring Dover's Veterans. We would like to profile several Veterans, as space allows, again, along with some related artifacts.

Please contact the Dover Historical Society (508-785-1832) with information related to persons whom you feel should be considered for the exhibit. We will gladly discuss them with you. A photograph, along with some detailed information regarding their service to the country will enhance the exhibit.

Amelia Peabody Exhibit

The Society is pleased to report a very positive response to our exhibit on Amelia Peabody, documenting her life and years in Dover. Miss Peabody was very important in determining the overall rural flavor of Dover.

Her beautiful Mill Farm on Dedham Street is now a combination of a private property and Noanet Woodlands, an extensive tract of conservation land owned by the Trustees of Reservations.

Her Powisset Farm property is now being used as a very successful CSA, providing farm shares to more than 200 families, with many more on a waiting list. It provides a valuable learning environment for young and old alike, allowing people to work on the farm, in a hands-on experience, or to experience nature on a personal level, picking their own vegetables and flowers.

Due to the positive response to our exhibit, we have decided to continue the exhibit for another year. We did this considering that the Trustees of Reservations plan to develop a signage program for the Dover Union Iron Works (DUIW), in Noanet Woodlands. They also plan to develop a questing program for the site, which will provide an educational experience for visitors.

Since we have a wonderful scale model of the DUIW, and want to encourage persons visiting the Mill site to see our model and artifacts, we felt that continuation of the exhibit was a worthwhile effort in support of the Trustees, and, to help develop an ongoing relationship with the DUIW site.

Please come to Sawin Museum to see the Amelia Peabody exhibit, as well as other exhibits related to Dover's history. We have artifacts related to past Indian inhabitants, the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, artifacts of daily life of early Dover inhabitants uncovered in past archeological digs done in town, World War I and II artifacts, as well as many, other items.

Also, remember that the present citizens of Dover, as active participants in Dover's daily town life, are a part of our future history. You have a stake in how and what the Historical Society will be presenting in the future years, come in and discover, and, hopefully appreciate what we do, and what we may do to preserve your family's history, for years to come.

Fay Bacher

Fall 2009 Docent Schedule

Saturdays 1-4 PM

CARYL HOUSE

Sept 12 Louise Crane

Sept 19 Teents Adams

Sept 26 Bev Ryburn

Oct 3 Sara Jo Marble

Oct 10 Louise Crane

Oct 17 Bev Ryburn

Oct 24 Jessica Hall

Oct. 31 Dale Cabot

Nov 7 Sue Knowles

Nov 14 Barbara Palmer

Nov. 21 Dorothy Boylan

OLD HOME DAY

Sunday Oct 4 Priscilla Jones, Miriam O'Day,

Dorothy Boylan, Louise Crane

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Dec. 6 Teents Adams, Fay Bacher, Dorothy Boylan, Dale Cabot, Louise Crane, Priscilla Jones, Miriam O'Day, Barbara Palmer

FISHER BARN

Elisha Lee

Jack Hoehlein

Bob Kelleher

Jack Hoehlein

Jack Hoehlein

Bob Kelleher

Priscilla Jones

Jack Hoehlein

SAWIN MUSEUM

Dorothy Boylan

Patty Howe

Dorothy Boylan

Barbara Palmer

Priscilla Jones

Clare Burke

Fay Bacher

Kay Guild

Shirley McGill

Mark Your Calendar

There will be open houses at Caryl House and Fisher Barn, 107 Dedham Street, and the Sawin Museum, 80 Dedham St., from 1 to 4 PM on Saturdays from Sept. 12th through Nov. 21st. All those interested in Dover's history are invited.

Sunday, Sept. 13 --4--6:30 PM --Wine Tasting Fund Raiser at the Fisher Barn, 107 Dedham St. All proceeds will go towards repairs for the Barn and the upkeep of other properties. See Fisher Barn article in this issue of Tidings.

Sunday, Oct. 4th - The 8th Annual Old Home Day Celebration. See schedule on reverse of this page.

Meet the Curators - Explore volunteer opportunities with the Dover Historical Society. Wednesday Oct. 21 at 10 AM and Saturday, Oct. 24 at 2 PM at Caryl House.

Tuesday, Oct. 27 - 7PM - Glenda Mattes, former curator of the Sawin Museum, will speak on *Amelia Peabody, Her Life and Works* in the Community Room of the Dover Library. Refreshments will be served.

Wednesday, Nov. 18 -Tour of the Gibson House Museum in Boston. Coffee and pastries at the home of Glenda Mattes on Commonwealth Ave. at 10 AM followed by 11 AM tour of the museum and lunch at the St. Botolph Club. \$60 fee includes museum admission, lunch, and a small donation to the Society. For reservations email Nan Leonard at nan.leonard@gmail.com by Nov. 4.

Sunday, Dec. 6th - 2 to 4PM -- Come to the Caryl House Holiday Open House. Period refreshments will be served.

Old Home Day 2009

Sunday, October 4th

10:00AM – 4:00 PM – 4th Annual Craft Fair - Town House, 5 Springdale Ave. In our Great Hall, Dover locals and neighboring artisans selling hand-crafted treasures. Quilts, baby blankets, wood carvings, jewelry, and more!

Classic hand-cut silhouettes by Carol Lebeaux – children, families, welcome Pets by photograph. Call 508-785-1977 for an appointment. Walk-ins fine too!

12:00 PM – Ringing of the Dover Church Bells

12:00 – 2:00 PM - Antique Car Show & Parade - Militia Field across from Library

Parade at 2:00 PM will feature hounds and horses from the Norfolk Hunt Club. Please vote for the Best Car in Show! Visit with hounds before the parade.

12:00 PM - Lunch Cart on Town Green – Gourmet Burgers & Dogs from Dover Market

Noon – 4:00 PM - Sawin Museum – 80 Dedham St.

Amelia Peabody memorabilia and her impact on Dover's history. McGregor McGehee will provide musical entertainment.

Noon – 4:00 PM - Caryl House and Fisher Barn – 107 Dedham St. Powisset Farm selling organic produce, pumpkins available too. Tours available all day.

Banjo concert - with Dennis Dowd starts at 2:00 PM

Field Day - Old-fashioned children's games including tug-a-war, three-legged race, potato-sack race, and the infamous egg toss! Games start at 2:30 PM
Checkers Champion -Come match wits with past state champion Richard White

The Great Historical Cake Raffle & Sale- Caryl House - Noon to 4PM
New this year! Historical cakes, some famous, some from your grandmother's day, others from "lost recipes" will be raffled off, or, baked to order in limited numbers. Yummy! Come take a chance to win one of multiple beautiful cakes, or, order one, or more, and have it delivered according to your schedule. Get wonderful baked goods, and support the Dover Historical Society

5:00 PM - Ceremony for Disposal of Unserviceable Flags - American Legion Hall, 32 Dedham St.

6:00 PM - Grange Supper & Apple Pie Contest - American Legion

To enter Homemade Apple Pie Contest! – call 508-785-1977

Our Ham, & Bean Supper is so popular we've added carved Turkey!

Come one come all. \$12 Adults & \$8 Seniors/Children.

For supper reservations call Heather Hodgson at 785-1977
or oldhomeday@comcast.net.

For further details, see www.doveroldhomedays.org.