

DOVER TIDINGS

Fall 2006



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Editors

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www.doverhistoricalsociety.org

A Letter from the President...

I hope that you all had a pleasant summer despite the excessive heat that we experienced in July. I thoroughly enjoyed a very quiet, beautiful Dover.

We had a very productive year with a wonderful sports exhibit at the Sawin, a new roof on the Caryl House glows for all to see, and the Kitchen Garden in full bloom is a wonderful sight. I hope that you all enjoyed Jay Crocker's wonderful opening up of the Sawin with the removal of much foliage that we didn't need. We did get the money from the Town Meeting for renovation of the Caretaker's Caryl Apartment which should start soon. We also netted \$844.50 from our June bottle and can gathering at the Transfer Station.

The 2005 Old Home Day was wonderful, with bigger attendance, a lively old-time baseball game, an excellent antique Dover car show, and just townspeople plus Whiting guests from Minnesota having a wonderful time.

The 2006 Old Home Day, October 1, should be better than ever. The OHD Committee is adding several new things especially a Dover Crafts Fair to be held in the Town House Great Hall. Many of you may remember the annual spring March of Dimes Craft Fair that we had for many years. Well, we hope that just maybe we can bring back, in a small way, a wonderful way for our local craftspeople to show their skills. Encourage your friends and neighbors, plus invite others from away, to attend a wonderful day of celebration of this beautiful town.

We have lined up a great 2006-2007 program series which includes our involvement with the Needham and Wellesley Historical Societies in a joint venture with a performance by a local Paul Revere re-enactor. We will also have Ken Gloss come and talk about books. You will receive separate mailings for these events.

I want to thank all members and volunteers who helped with the organization of last year's programs, exhibits, OHD, the Holiday Party, and the Spring Garden Party. I encourage all to continue such efforts as well as contributing more financial support to make all these and future activities a reality.

The Board encourages society members to consider mention of financial support in family wills as well as contributions of Dover artifacts that should be in our collection. If any have an interest in such an approach, please contact members of the Board. I am particularly interested in any of you who might have a Dover milk bottle collection that you would be willing to give or loan to the Society.

For those concerned, our efforts with the Dover Historical Commission to transfer and move the Draper House at 6 Farm Street, have been put on hold. We hope to have the new DHC postcard series available for sale at Old Home Day in three groups: historical, artist and contemporary.

Thanks to Board members, curators, members, and volunteers for making 2005-2006 a successful year. I have every hope that 2006-2007 will be even better.

Paul H. Tedesco

CARYL HOUSE

Ushering in the summer season, the annual Garden Party offered an opportunity to reflect on Betsy Jackson's many contributions. An antique sterling ladle decorated with apples and engraved with Betsy's name will remind us of her pouring punch in past Decembers and Junes.

Two significant projects have moved forward. An underground watering system helps the parlor garden, kitchen garden, and fruitery thrive. Thanks to the Freedom Ring project supported by Chicatabot, Dover, and Noanet Garden Clubs, Roxbury russet apple trees, American cranberry bushes, low branch blueberries, and currants joined the Concord grapes and rhubarb already planted. Dorothy Boylan and her grandson, Daniel, are helping to keep after the weeds. Many thanks to them.

This summer also saw the installation of new shelves in the buttery. The term buttery evolves from "butt," a cask or barrel varying in size from 108 gallons for beer to 140 gallons for Spanish wine. Items needed in the house, and especially in the kitchen, were stored in the buttery. An earlier restoration left the Caryl House buttery with 20th century shelves that were neither useful nor conducive to interpreting the room in a coherent fashion. We now have shelves of varying widths up to 20 inches. Their design echoes that in the Coffin House in Newbury, Mass. Richardson's stain, made in Dover on Crest Drive West some years ago, gives the shelves their distinctive appearance. It contains manure, a documented stain ingredient since the Middle Ages. Initial efforts



have failed to provide more information on the manufacturer. Does anyone know about this product?

Do call me (0236) for appointments from 1 to 5 pm with silhouette artist Carol LeBeaux on Old Home Day, October 1.

Priscilla Pitt Jones
Caryl House Curator

FISHER BARN

Among the simpler implements in the Society's collection is this wrought iron spear, just short of eight feet in length, which has been incorrectly identified as a "frog gig".



A recent visit to a small museum on the Maine coast confirmed the curator's long standing suspicion that

this is, in fact, an eel spear. As with many early tools, its design is somewhat more sophisticated than it first appears. This particular spear is a "winter" spear, used for probing through the ice in shallow water (in our case, one might presume the Charles River) for the semi-dormant eels buried in the mud. The thick central blade protects the softer tines on either side from damage when thrust against rocks, and rather than impaling the eel, the barbs on either side simply prevent its escape.

While it remains popular in Britain and Europe, the eel has largely passed from the American culinary realm. It was, however, a mainstay of the early American diet and cook books of the time include many recipes for fried eel, spitcocked eel (arranged in a circle, head to tail, and roasted), and even eel chowders and pies.

Elisha Lee
Fisher Barn Curator

SAWIN MUSEUM

We have had a very busy summer at the Sawin Museum. It was time to dismantle the sport exhibit. Things belonging to the Society were packed away, and sport equipment on loan returned to the owners. Many thanks to all who contributed.

This year's exhibit will be in two parts: one part celebrating the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Sawin Building. In keeping with this, we will honor the Wilson family who are believed to be the first settlers in Springfield Parish, now called Dover. Frank Smith's *Dover History* established the date of 1641 when the first Wilson was born there.

The exhibit will open on Old Home Day, Sunday, October 1st. The exhibit will depict family life in the mid to late 19th century and will feature clothing and many household artifacts.

Come visit the exhibit which will run from fall 2006 through spring 2007.

Shirley McGill
Sawin Museum Curator

DHS FALL 2006 DOCENT SCHEDULE

Saturdays 1-4 pm

	<u>CARYL HOUSE</u>	<u>FISHER BARN</u>	<u>SAWIN MUSEUM</u>
Sept. 9	Dorothy Boylan	Robert Bond	Closed
Sept. 16	Betty Brady	Bob Kelleher	Closed
Sept. 23	Sue Knowles	Jack Hoehlein	Closed
Sept 30	Louise Crane	Paul Tedesco	Closed
Oct. 7	Joy Bushman	Jack Hoehlein	Dave Stapleton
Oct. 14	Pearl Chamberlain	Bob Kelleher	Dorothy Boylan
Oct. 21	Louise Crane	Jack Hoehlein	Shirley McGill
Oct. 28	Nancy Ferguson	Paul Tedesco	Betty Brady
Nov. 4	Louise Crane	Jack Hoehlein	Gary Sawin
Nov. 11	Alison Campbell	Bob Kelleher	Dave Stapleton
Nov. 18	Jane Moore	Dave Stapleton	Glenda Mattes
Nov. 25	Juanita Savage	Robert Bond	Gary Sawin

Sunday, Oct. 1 **OLD HOME DAY**
 Robert Bond, Dorothy Boylan, Dale Cabot, Heather DePaola,
 Nancy Ferguson, Jessica Hall, Priscilla Jones, Sue Knowles,
 - Glenda Mattes, Shirley McGill, Bev Ryburn, Paul Tedesco

Sunday, Dec. 10 **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**
 Dorothy Boylan, Betty Brady, Dale Cabot, Alison Campbell,
 Pearl Chamberlain, Louise Crane, Kay Guild, Patty Howe,
 Priscilla Jones, Ginny Leonard, Bev Ryburn, Paul Tedesco

KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

President	Paul Tedesco	508-785-1933	PHT52@aol.com
Caryl House Curator	Priscilla Jones	508-785-0236	PJONES @smithalumnae.net
Fisher Barn Curator	Elisha Lee	508-785-1653	ELEEJR @verizon.net
Sawin Museum Curator	Shirley McGill	508-785-0090	DOVERFOSSIL @yahoo.com
Public Programs	Joy Bushman	508-785-1686	TBUSHMAN @comcast.net
School Programs	Patty Howe	508-785-9044	PAHOWE54 @yahoo.com

Old Home Day

www.DoverOldHomeDays.org

Schedule of Events

Sunday, October 1, 2006

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Craft Fair - Great Hall of the Town House

New this year, The Craft Fair will offer an opportunity to view and purchase items produced by craftspeople from Dover and surrounding towns. Door prizes will be awarded.

1:00 pm

Kick off - Church Bells Ring - Dover Church

1:00 - 2:30 pm

Antique Car Show & Parade - Militia Field

Please come and vote for Best in Show. The parade will also feature hounds and horses from the Norfolk Hunt Club. We will be serving gourmet hamburgers and hot dogs near the auto show.

1:00 - 5:00 pm

Sawin Museum - 80 Dedham Street

The exhibit will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Sawin Museum and the history of the Wilson-Bond Family in Dover.

1:00 - 5:00 pm

Caryl House - 107 Dedham Street

Hand cut silhouettes by Carol Lebeaux. Silhouette portraits make a lovely gift. Please call Priscilla Jones for appointments at 785-0236.

2:30 pm

Field Day - Fisher Barn

Old-fashioned childrens games including tug-a-war, potato-sack race, three-legged race, and the famous egg toss. Come challenge checkers State Champion Richard White next to the Fisher Barn. Come and watch the Yankee Blacksmith demonstrating his traditional craft.

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Grange Supper at the American Legion Hall

Our ham and bean supper sells out quickly so contact us soon to get your reservations. Tickets for members of the Dover Historical Society are \$12 for adults and \$8 for seniors and children. Tickets for all non-members are \$15. Email us for tickets at oldhomeday@comcast.net or call Heather Hodgson DePaola at 508-785-1977.

DHS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2006 - 2007

- Sunday, Oct. 1 10 am - 7 pm - Old Home Day
10 am - 4 pm - Craft Fair at the Great Hall of the Town House
1 pm - Kick-Off -Church Bells Ring - Dover Church
1 - 3 pm - Antique Car Show
1 - 5 pm- Silhouette artist Carol Lebeaux and Open House
at Caryl House
1 - 4 pm - Open house at the Fisher Barn
1 - 4 pm - Sawin Museum - Opening of exhibits celebrating the
100th Anniversary of the Museum and the history of the
Wilson - Bond family in Dover
2:30 pm - Field Day featuring old-fashioned children's
games next to the Fisher Barn
5 - 7 pm - Grange Supper at the American Legion Hall
- Thursday, Oct. 26 An autumn outing: The Simon Willard 1718 house, workshop
& museum, Grafton MA. He was clockmaker for the
Blackstone Valley factories, high-style cabinet makers of
Boston; his working clocks still hang in the Supreme Court
and US Capitol buildings. Restaurants are available, also
Worcester Art Museum is nearby. Meet at 9:30 am at the
Highway Dept. parking lot to carpool. Map available - contact
Joy Bushman (785-1686) for further information.
- Sunday, Dec. 10 2 - 4pm - Holiday Open House at the Caryl House
- Thursday, Feb 8 Ken Gloss, Brattle Book Store will give a lecture, followed by
some book and autograph appraising.at the Dover Library;
7 pm refreshments; 7:30 pm lecture
- Thursday, Mar 29 Annual Meeting of the Society; with a speaker from the
Charles River Watershed Association
- Thursday, Apr 12 7 pm - Joint meeting with the Wellesley Historical Society
and Needham Historical Society at the Wellesley Library
"Paul Revere in Person"
- Saturday, May 19 Dover Days Fair - Check out DHS booth.
- Sunday, June 3 2 - 4 pm - Caryl House Garden Party.
- All welcome ** No Charge ** For further information, contact Joy Bushman
(785-1686)