

DOVER TIDINGS

Holiday 2011



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Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, November 30th Christmas in New England

Kenneth Turino will speak on "Christmas in New England" with illustrations and descriptions of the years 1770-1900 on Wednesday, November 30th at 7:00 PM at the Dover Library. He will trace the celebration of Christmas from the time it was outlawed in 17th Century New England through the beginning of the 20th Century. Kenneth Turino, is Manager of Exhibitions at Historic New England.

Sunday, December 4th Annual Holiday Open House

You are invited to the Society's annual Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 4th from 2 to 4 PM at the Caryl House. Come "see" the house all decorated for the holidays, visit with friends and neighbors and enjoy seasonal music by Diane and Michael Jones. Children's activities are planned and refreshments will be served

Wednesday, February 1st, 2012 Museum of Fine Arts Tour

The Society will sponsor a guided tour of the Highlights of the Arts in America February 1st, 2012 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. Payment of \$28 for adults and \$26 for Seniors will be due at the door by check, Visa, Mastercard or American Express. Participants must arrive at 9:50 AM for check-in at the Linde Family Entrance. Lunch at the Museum's Bravo Restaurant is not included in the ticket price. For reservations, contact Clare Burke at 508-785-1357 or clareburke@comcast.net.

Thursday, March 29, 2012 Annual Meeting of the Society

The Annual Meeting will be Thursday, March 29 at 7pm at the Dover Library. Steve Marini, Professor of Religion, Wellesley College, will share his research on Who Was the Reverend Benjamin Caryl? He is writing a pamphlet on Benjamin Caryl, Dover's first minister, in conjunction with the Dover Church's 250th anniversary year.

The President's Message

As a local historian it is easy to think of Dover as a world unto itself, a small farming community in which generations lived and died, marrying their neighbors or people from adjacent communities, and venturing further afield only in time of war. In point of fact, however, Dover's sons and daughters have always been leaving in search of greener pastures.

One particularly interesting manifestation of this adventuresome spirit is found



in the California Gold Rush. The discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in Coloma, California in January of 1848 unleashed a popular migration hitherto unseen in American history, ultimately attracting some 100,000 aspiring miners to a territory

with an existing non-native population of less than 1,000 people. Dover, for comparative purposes, had an 1850 population of 631. It was not a journey lightly or easily made – New Englanders typically went by ship rather than across the country (the transcontinental railway was not completed until 1869), either sailing around Cape Horn or disembarking at Panama and risking disease crossing the Isthmus by mule and canoe, only to re-embark on the Pacific side and sail north to San Francisco. The journey alone took between five and eight months to complete.

In Dover Farms, local author and town historian, Frank Smith lists the names of 28 Dover men and 2 women who made the arduous journey to California prior to 1860. Picking up the genealogical trail of our former townsmen is a difficult task, as many seem to have simply vanished. In some cases, however, their names are sufficiently distinctive as to be unmistakable.

On September 13, 1849 the San Francisco newspaper Alta California reported the death of Ithamar Whiting, age 56 and late of Tepic, Mexico. Whiting was born in Dover on April 13, 1791 as the sixth son of Aaron Whiting, a prosperous farmer and businessman. The adventuresome spirit of the Whiting family seems to have been undeterred as Ithamar's nephews Smith and Ruggles L. Whiting made their own journeys to the gold fields in 1851 and 1853. Both remained in California, Ruggles in San Francisco and Smith in Stockton.

As with so many of the Forty-niners, great wealth seems to have eluded the Whiting brothers. The 1870 Census lists Smith's occupation as drayman, the 19th century equivalent of a truck driver, and voter registration records for 1878 tell us that Ruggles' was making a living as a carpenter.

Several of our Forty-niners returned to Dover. However, they have left few clues as to their activities in the gold fields. We know, for example, that George Ellis Chickering left Dover for California in 1857 and returned in time to be listed again as a Dover resident and farmer in the 1860 Census. Given the time required to make the journey out and back, we may infer that Chickering's time there was brief. Later in life he purchased and bequeathed to the town the property now known as Caryl Park.

As always, I am grateful for your continued interest and support,

Elisha Lee

Caryl House

Benjamin Caryl's flame stitch wallet is one of the treasures of the Caryl House and a fine example of the exquisite stitchery for which 18th century New England women were famous. Clothing with fine needlework decoration became high fashion in England in the mid-18th century and the fad spread to the colonies. Arguably the finest needlework ever done in America was created by upper middle class women from 1700-1780. Our Sarah Caryl, who created this wallet, could hold her own with the best of them. A widow of some means and stature in her own right when she entered her second marriage, Sarah knew that an elegant pocketbook was a status symbol for a colonial gentleman, and that it had utility in connoting his social standing in the rural 4th Parish of Dedham.

Owing to its fragile condition, the wallet has rarely, if ever, been exhibited. The Dover Church celebrates its 250th anniversary in 2012, measured from 1762, the year Rev. Caryl accepted its call. This seemed the perfect occasion to undertake the stabilization and conservation of this special artifact. The wallet is currently in the skilled hands of Deidre Windsor, a textile conservator of renown who makes her home in Dover. Come spring, it will be on display at the Caryl House.

But first we celebrate this season of thanksgiving. 2011 has offered a full and generous harvest to the Caryl House. It witnessed the collective effort of DHS leadership and town officials to attract world-class talent to assess the current condition of the House and to recommend initiatives to meet its future needs. Moreover, in a time of economic distress, the Town Meeting generously and unanimously voted the funding to support this work. The historic restoration of the Caryl loom followed, bringing warmth and vitality to the Kitchen Chamber. We are thankful as well to the dozens of you who this year contributed to the future of the House with a donation of historic artifacts, skill, time, ideas or financial support.

Please come to the Caryl House on December 4th to kick off your holiday season with festive decorations, sweet treats, seasonal music and fellowship. If you wish to participate in the decoration of the house for this occasion, please give me a call at 508-785-1190.

Barbara H. Palmer
Curator, Caryl House

Sawin Museum

As some of you know, Sawin has been the unlucky recipient of the effects of several lightening strikes this year. The last one did quite a bit of damage, among other things, wiping out the well pump and water tank, both of which had to be replaced. We are in the process of exploring installation of lightening rods to prevent any further instances of this type.

The fortunate side of this situation, strangely enough, is that it affected the computer's performance, as well, and as a result, we have been able to get a "new" (refurbished) computer. This is a wonderful development, as it will allow us to have folks work on the computer remotely, which will not only be convenient for us, but will hopefully broaden the access of volunteers to do projects.

If someone is interested in a special project, depending on the project's scope and needs, they can be given a password and access to the necessary files, and will be able to work on the project from the comfort of their home. It is our hope that this will broaden the availability of volunteers, while also providing us with valuable assistance with some of the many projects that are available. We encourage anyone interested in doing some volunteer work to contact us by phone or email, and we will be glad to discuss with you what type of project you might be interested in working on.

We are, also, very pleased to say that Richard Freimer's Eagle Scout project developing a QR code program which will tag the historical buildings in Dover Center is proceeding. Depending on the complexity of the program, for the team of Scouts who will be assisting Richard, it may be expanded to include historical

sites outside of the Center. This project will link the tags to info on a website that can be accessed by the viewer by their cell phone. It will allow the participant to complete as much, or as little, of a tour of Dover's history, taking into account variables such as interest, time, weather, or energy constraints. This is a wonderful development and we are grateful to the Boy Scouts for another Eagle Scout project that will enhance our Town.

Sawin Museum continues to have the wonderful support of the Girl Scouts, as well. Old Home Day was made exceptionally fabulous, with their culinary contributions to the Great Historical Bake Sale. They manned the tables, serving coffee, tea, cider and baked goods to citizens who came to "The Sawin Cafe", and relaxed with wonderful period music provided by McGregor McGehee. They also acted as docents on all three floors of the Museum throughout the day, a service which was invaluable.

We invite anyone with an interest in history, a need for COMMUNITY HOURS for school, Scouting activity openings, or a desire to become involved in the Town, to contact us to explore possible opportunities to volunteer. We welcome your visits to Sawin Museum, and think you will be surprised!

Fay Bacher

Curator, Sawin Museum

Call for Old Home Day Volunteers

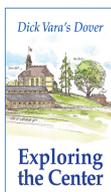
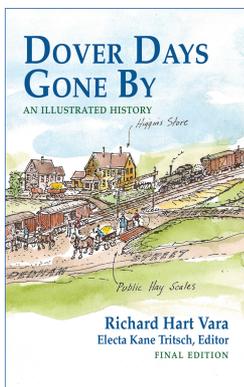
Here's a wonderful opportunity to help the Dover Historical Society while learning about Dover's rich history.

Old Home Day volunteer opportunities include working on the Craft Fair, Antique Car Show, Children's Field Day, Grange Supper, Event Publicity, Set-up/Take-down, and Planning. This is the primary fundraising event for the Dover Historical Society and we need more people to help with these efforts. The Program booklet (sent out to all in Dover) attracts sponsors, provides historical content and informs the community of the day's activities.

Whether you can volunteer for just a few hours on the day of the event or make a longer term commitment, this is a great way to get involved. For further

Two New Publications

Have you seen the new guidebooks published by the Society this year? They are companions to the Final Edition of Dick Vara's *Dover Days Gone By* which came out last year and were funded in part by a generous grant from the Dover Cultural Council.



The first, "Dick Vara's Dover: Exploring the Center", is a walking tour of about 1-1/2 miles around the center of town. It begins at the Caryl House, goes down Dedham Street to the churches and back on Springdale Avenue and Centre Street stopping along the way at 19 different locations. Keyed to various stories and sections in the book, it provides an overview and background of scenes we pass by daily and probably know little or nothing about.

The second booklet which was published this fall and first introduced at Old Home Day is "Dick Vara's Dover: Exploring By Car, Boat, on Foot". This is a bit more ambitious guide which looks at five separate locations in town, giving information about activities that are no longer visible but were once very vibrant and important aspects of our past. It, too, is keyed to the main book which gives much greater detail and background of each place: Bliss's Corner, Sawin's Grove and Dover Bridges, Charles River Village, Larrabee Farm and the Dover Dig, and lastly Noanet Woodlands and Powisset Farm. In most cases, today you can drive by – or wander by – these places and never guess how interesting and important they once were.

Both guidebooks and *Dover Days Gone By* are available at Dover Market, from each museum, and by phone: 508-785-1832. In addition, there are still a few hardbound, limited edition, numbered copies of the book available: call 508-785-0567.

If you are looking for the perfect gift for the holidays for your family members or long lost Dover friends, these books are the perfect solution.

Second Annual Preservation Award

The Dover Historical Society promotes awareness of our historic sites and celebrates those who choose preservation. Do you have a favorite old house or a restored garden, field, or woods? If so, please complete the easy nomination form below and return it to DHS, Box 534, Dover or email your choice to DHS1895@aol.com. The deadline for suggestions is 1 February 2012. For additional information, email DHS1895@aol.com.

Dover Historical Society Preservation Award Winner

2011 – 1 Pegan Lane

Nomination Form Second Annual Preservation Award

Name of Owner _____

Address _____

- . restoration of a historic home or building
- . appropriate design of an addition at a historic location
- . re-creation of a historic landscape

Jill French Priscilla Jones Sara Molyneaux Charlotte Surgenor