

# DOVER TIDINGS

Holiday 2003



Volume IV No. 3

Priscilla Pitt Jones  
Susanne M. Knowles  
Editors

---

*The Dover Historical Society  
invites you to a*

## *Holiday Open House*

*Sunday, December 7, 2003  
from 2 to 4 pm  
at the*

*Benjamin Caryl House  
107 Dedham Street, Dover*

---

*Diane and Michael Jones  
seasonal music*

*Dick Vara signing copies of his new book,  
"The Dover Union Iron Mill"*

*Children's activities*

*Period refreshments*

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

## *A Letter from the President...*

Dear Society Members:

We have had a busy spring, summer, and fall, topped off by a wonderful Centennial Old Home Day on October 5. We had about 350-400 attend throughout the day, among whom were former residents of the town, the Smith sisters, Roberta Cecelia Temple and Marcia Leah Close, who, with their husbands, traveled from Connecticut and Virginia respectively. They had a grand time touring the town and chatting with old friends at the Grange Supper. Their grandmother, Phebe Chickering, built the house at 56 Centre Street in 1877, which is now owned by the Charles River School.

The 2004 Dover Historical Society Annual Meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday, March 18, 2004, at the Chickering School. Our speaker for the evening will be Barbara Bedell, a longtime resident of the town, who will talk about her new book: *Colonial Edward Robinson Green and the World He Created at Round Hill*. Colonel Green's mother Hetty was once regarded as the richest woman in the United States. Barbara will talk about researching and writing local history and present slides. Open to all. Please bring a friend.

For those of you who did not have a chance to meet Dick Vara and purchase a signed copy of his new book, a *The Dover Union Iron Mill*, at Old Home Day, Dick will be signing books at the Caryl House Holiday Open House. Dick has graciously given all the proceeds from his book to the Society. If you aren't able to join us on December 7 and want a copy of Dick's book, please call me at 785-1933 and I will deliver your copy to you. Cost is \$20.

The Society and the Dover Historical Commission are working on two joint projects: (1) a House Plaque program which we hope to start by the end of the year, and (2) a Local Preservation House Award which will be a yearly program honoring an individual who has contributed to our joint mission of preserving Dover historical houses.

Gary Sawin, Priscilla Jones, and I met with Dover Sherborn High School Guidance Counselor, Elly Kinsella, in order to discuss the \$400 Sesquicentennial Award which the Historical Society hopes to present at the Spring Awards Assembly. Juniors who complete a project relating to Dover's history will be eligible. Guidelines are available at the Guidance Office.

We are a volunteer organization and are dependent upon your support for the funds to continue our mission of preserving Dover's past. We welcome your dollars as well as your labor. Remember that our educational programs at the Caryl House lot impact all the children of the community. Please continue to support our good works.

I want to thank all those who have contributed to our efforts as well as to wish all of you the best of holiday seasons?

*Paul H. Tedesco*

## CARYL HOUSE

During the first week of November, five classes of second graders with teachers and parents visited the Benjamin Caryl House. Pam Kunkemueller taught them about heat and light in the 1790's. The days were dark and chilly, making it easier to imagine how the Caryl family and others coped with these challenges. Patty Howe will take over this part of our educational program and will welcome second graders again in the Spring when they will explore the whole house and learn about food preparation.

When you come to the Holiday Open House, look for the five Dover Insights, which recently have been published. These pamphlets share information on the following specific aspects of Dover's history: George Caryl's Pet Squirrel, Ellen Miller, Caryl House Home Lot, Small Pox, and Reverend Benjamin Caryl's Revolutionary War Sermons. As you contemplate your Holiday gift list, please remember that the Historical Society offers a fine selection of items, including books, lap robe, tote bag, hat, barn postcards, and plates. These will be available at the Holiday Open House or call me.

### Have You Seen This?

The Caryl House seems to come alive when filled with music. We are fortunate indeed to have Diane Jones and Michael Jones, music teachers in Dover and Walpole respectively, lead the Holiday singing again this year. Of course, the harpsichord built by Bill Jones will be featured.



When you visit next time, look for Dr. George Caryl's flute. Music served as special entertainment and Reverend Benjamin Caryl joined his son on the cello.

Priscilla Pitt Jones  
Caryl House Curator

---

## FISHER BARN

Visitors to the Fisher Barn will notice two wooden plows in the Society's collection, obtained from the Chickering and Draper farms here in Dover. A third, less readily recognizable item hangs on the rear wall of the barn. This is a spike harrow – a triangular wooden frame with iron spikes projecting from one side, which was dragged through the field to break up clods of earth.

Observant residents will recall that Dover's Town Seal also bears an image of a plow. Local legend has it that this was the plow left in the field by a Minuteman as he ran to the muster field on the morning of April 19, 1775. A bit of curatorial research reveals not one, but two accounts of Dover's citizens abandoning their plows on that fateful morning. In *Dover Farms* local

historian Frank Smith refers to Aaron Whiting leaving his horse and plow in the field, while Whiting's brother-in-law, Elias Haven, was summoned from harrowing one of the Chickering fields - only to be killed in the fighting at the Arlington Meeting House. He further notes that the harrow left in the field that morning was (as of 1909) still in the Chickering family, from whom many of the Society's farm tools were obtained. While conclusive evidence remains elusive, it is very likely that the spike harrow presently displayed on the south wall of the Fisher Barn is the actual implement left in the fields of Chickering Farm by the only Dedham man killed in that engagement

Elisha Lee  
Fisher Barn Curator

---

### SAWIN MUSEUM

The new antique toy exhibit, a wonderful collection of dolls and books and trains and little things that you might remember from your childhood, opened on Old Home Day.

The museum will be open Saturdays 1-4 PM through the end of November. There will be changes when we reopen in April. The wonderful drawings by the children in Tabitha Agneta's Artful Endeavors classes will be going back to the artists and will be (we hope) be replaced by more of a different object from the exhibit.

The cataloguing of the vast collection owned by the Society continues. We will be buying a new computer allowing us to upgrade our software to accept digital photos and scans of the collection. As we catalogue and clean, we are also looking forward to the day when we will reopen the second floor, including our cases of Native American artifacts, to public view.

Glenda Mattes  
Assistant Curator Sawin Museum

---

### DOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

President	Paul Tedesco	508 785 1933
Caryl House Curator	Priscilla Jones	508 785 0236
Sawin Museum Curator	Shirley McGill	508 785 0090
Fisher Barn Curator	Elisha Lee	508 785 1653
Public Programs	Louise Crane	508 785 2636
School Programs	Patti Howe	508 785 9044

