

DOVER TIDINGS

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The President's Message

Readers who enjoy exploring Noanet Woodlands will find in the northeast corner of that property the remains of a small mill on Noanet Brook. In *Dover Farms*, Frank Smith states that it was built by Calvin Richards as a keg mill in 1851. In *Men of Useful Trades*, historian Electa Kane Tritsch



suggests that the structure is somewhat older and that its operation was coincident with the existence of Josiah Newell's nail and iron-rolling mills at Charles River Village and

another mill in Newton Upper Falls. These larger mills were the logical buyers of Richards' kegs. In their day, they were fairly substantial industries – in 1837 alone the factory at Charles River Village employed 14 people and manufactured 300 tons of nails. The site of the Richards' mill

is unusual in that it lacks the slope generally necessary for water powered industries. Water was diverted from the brook and carried to the mill wheel by a wooden flume of which only the stone stanchions remain. The arrangement may have been at best marginally functional as, in later years, the mill's water power is said to have been augmented by a horse.

The mill's builder, Calvin Richards Senior, was born in 1782 on his grandfather's farm at the corner of Dedham and Strawberry Hill Streets. The house survives today as 15 Strawberry Hill Street. He married Lucinda Leland of Sherborn in 1805 and raised eight children on the property before dying in 1836. Smith notes in his *History of Dover* that he had a blacksmith shop on his farm, at which he did his own work. His oldest son, Calvin Richards Junior (1807-1873) married Lucy Mann, daughter of Daniel Mann, a prominent local builder and iron manufacturer who lived at what is now 216 Dedham Street. Mann's younger sister Betsey was the wife of Josiah Newell, owner of the nail factory at Charles River Village, and, in all likelihood, Richards' primary buyer.

With the conversion of the mills at Charles River Village to paper production in 1853 the Richards' keg mill probably ceased to be economically viable. Smith states that it was leased for several years to Perez Fearing, a cooper who settled just north of the Richards' farm on Strawberry Hill Street in 1852. It was subsequently used by Lewis Smith and W. Mason Richards for the manufacturing of shoe-fillings (wooden blocks used to maintain the shape of footwear). Smith was a Richards cousin who lived on the property that is now Mill Farm. At some point in the late 1850's the business and machinery were acquired by William A. Howe and relocated to Main Street. The keg mill itself is said to have burned in 1860.

Elisha Lee

Caryl House

Under the watchful eyes of architect Richard Smith and historic preservationist Bill Finch, the stabilization and preservation work at the Caryl House is expected to begin in mid-April or early May. We will do our very best to mitigate disruption to the spring visitation schedule occasioned by this work, but I apologize in advance should you encounter conditions not up to our usual standard. Sadly the annual Garden Party will be a casualty of this necessary work. I would welcome help with the chores that will accompany this project – moving and protecting furniture, photographing the various stages of the project and fully documenting it. This project is itself an important chapter in the history of the house; if you are interested in learning more about historic preservation while making a contribution to it, please be in touch.

An expert from the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory in Oxfordshire, England has been on site for two days this spring to undertake a study of the timbers in Caryl and Fisher to more accurately determine the age of the structures and to establish the age and origin of reused materials found in Caryl. In the next issue of Tidings expect details on the findings, along with a description of how such work is conducted.

I am pleased to report that the Society is once again the grateful recipient of a grant from the Dover Cultural Council, this time in support of the conservation of Benjamin Caryl's flame stitch wallet. The wallet will be on exhibit at Caryl this spring and fall.

Have you had enough of the Patriots Day crowds at Lexington and Concord? If you need an alternate destination for the occasion more approachable in scale, I have two recommendations. The first is the Lantern Lighting Service at the Old North Church. It occurs on the Sunday evening before Patriot's Day. Last year it started at 7 p.m., but you need to get to the area behind the Church through the Paul Revere Mall by 5 p.m. to stand in line for "first come/first serve tickets," then grab a quick bite in the North End and get back by 6 p.m. to take in the preliminary outdoor activities prior to the service including the arrival of the 1st Michigan Colonial Fife and Drum Corps. Keep watch at the Old North Church website (www.oldnorth.com) or call 617-523-6676 for more information. I think

they are deliberately low key about this event so as not to attract crowds they cannot accommodate. My second destination is the First Church of Roxbury, a wonderful historic structure overlooking John Eliot Square. You will find events there authentically welcoming, predictably patriotic and a wonderful tribute to contemporary Roxbury's pride in its history. Sponsored by Discover Roxbury and The First Church of Roxbury, its Patriot's Day program consumes the entire morning and offers something for everybody. Starting at 8 a.m. enjoy refreshments, patriotic speeches, youngsters reading their prize winning essays, and visits to historic houses. But here the man of the day is William Dawes, not Paul Revere. He takes off on horseback from Eliot Square about 10:30 a.m. on his way to Lexington. (See www.discoverroxbury.org/patriots-day for details)

Barbara H. Palmer

Curator, The Benjamin Caryl House

Fisher Barn

It had been 13 years since the Dover Historical Society first convened to discuss the fate of the recently discovered Fisher Barn. Through the efforts of Priscilla Jones, Helena and Stuart Swiny, and many other interested and concerned Dover residents, the Barn was preserved and moved to complement the property of the Caryl House. This was a natural fit due to the approximate age and size of the Barn, which would be appropriate for the age and size of a barn that the Reverend Benjamin Caryl would have had on his property.

Since then, many have visited and learned about the history of the barn, viewed agricultural tools and implements of days gone by and learned a bit of Dover's dairy farming and manufacturing history. During this time, many unique items of interest have been donated to the Barn. This collection of items will be highlighted this spring, with different items on display. The inevitable question by curious visitors, "what is this?" will be the focus of these displays prompting the curious and knowledgeable to take their best guess before the item is explained!

We look forward to seeing you this spring as you visit the Benjamin Caryl property to reflect on our rich history and the lifestyle of our ancestors.

Jack Hoehlein

Curator, The Fisher Barn

Spring into Sawin!

Sawin Museum is gearing up for the Spring season. We have finished the setup of the new computer system, complete with new scanner, fax, and printers, and with a little more work, will be set up for remote access to the newly secured system. With approval and a time limited individual password, volunteers will be able to work on select, approved projects from their home computers. Access to the system will be restricted to the projects that they are working on. This will allow work to proceed without having to mandate that a staff member be present in the building during projects, which has been problematic at times in the past. Training will be provided and is not too complicated.

We also have projects that do require work to be done in the building, so for those who are not computer oriented, please feel free to contact us to discuss what projects you might like to do.

We are looking forward to several new projects to proceed, and, as always, have community hours available for students.

Aside from historically related projects available to volunteers, we also continue to work on more mundane, but necessary, projects, such as the new security measures being installed and implemented in the Museum.

The next major project for Sawin will be the installation of a lightning deterrent system. Lightning rods will be installed to prevent any issues related with potential strikes, which have caused problems in the past.

These have been costly projects, as is the other significant upcoming project, painting the trim and glazing all the windows in the more than one hundred year old building.

So, as always, we welcome and greatly appreciate any donations large or small, and, of course, gifts of artifacts and/or volunteered time, all of which allow us to

continue to maintain the Museum and provide programs to benefit the citizens of Dover.

Have a happy Spring! And, please, come visit Sawin Museum; you may be surprised at this fabulous gem in Dover Center! Bring your children or grandchildren for a free quality time experience. We look forward to seeing you!

Fay Bacher

Curator, The Sawin Museum

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, May 5th at 10 AM. Tour of Tim Wider's Civil War Museum at 9 Miller Hill Road. The Museum includes weapons, uniforms and personal belongings.



Reservations are required. Please contact Clare Burke at 508-785-1357 or clareburke@comcast.net.

Dover Historical Society Officers and Board Members Elected at the Annual Meeting 3/29/12

President	Elisha Lee	(508)785-1653	eleejr@verizon.net
Vice President	Jack Hoehlein	(508)479-1937	jhoehlein@hotmail.com
Secretary	Priscilla Jones	(508)785-0236	priscillapjones@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Sue Fitzgerald	(508)785-2161	suefitzgerald@comcast.net
Caryl House Curator	Barbara Palmer	(508)785-1190	barbarapalmer @comcast.net
Fisher Barn Curator	Richard White	(508)785-3197	whitefork@verizon.net
Sawin Museum Curator	Fay Bacher		
Fund Raising	Heather Hodgson	(508)785-1977	UnpackingSolutions @comcast.net
Hospitality	Dorothy Boylan	(508)785-1980	DLBoylan@att.net
Public Programs	Clare Burke	(508)785-1357	clareburke@comcast.net
Public Relations	Sue Knowles	(508)785-0858	susannekowles@aol.com
School Programs			
Volunteers	Amy Wilcox	(617)266-1360	amywilcox@mac.com

Advisory Board

Pam Kunkemueller	Judy Schulz
Shirley McGill	Deirdre Windsor-Bailey
Dale Cabot	Patty Howe
Kim Phelan	

Second Annual Preservation Award



Based on nominations from the community, Priscilla Jones has announced the second recipient of the Dover Historical Society's Historic Preservation Award. It is William and Rachel Motley's home at 8 Haven Street. Bill grew up in the house and his mother, Kitty, was active in the Society.

Preservation requires a coordinated effort and the Motleys have been working for the last four years. Demolishing a 1970's addition, rebuilding the stone foundation, and installing copper downspouts, and cedar on the roof are among the period features which now grace the home. Inside servant's bells speak of another era. Gardens offer a lovely setting.

In addition to Priscilla Jones, members of the Preservation Award Committee include Jill French, Sara Molyneaux, and Charlotte Surgenor. We look forward to continuing to celebrate those who choose preservation.

SPRING 2012 DOCENT SCHEDULE

DATE	CARYL HOUSE	FISHER BARN	SAWIN MUSEUM
April 7	Kay Guild	Jack Hoehlein	Fay Bacher
April 14	B. Sagan/ P. Jones	Jack Hoehlein	Dorothy Boylan
April 21	Nancy Adams	Richard White	
April 28	Dorothy Boylan	Barbara Palmer	Patty Howe
May 5	Nancy Adams	Amy Wilcox	Clare Burke
May 12	Elisha Lee	Amy Wilcox	Jack Hoehlein
May 19	Kevin Shale	Jack Hoehlein	Patty Howe
May 26	Priscilla Jones		Richard White
June 2	Richard White		Ursula Gray
June 9	Jack Hoehlein		Kevin Shale
June 16	Richard White		Clare Burke
June 23	Sue Knowles		
June 30	Barbara Palmer	Betty Brady	Fay Bacher