

DOVER TIDINGS

Fall 2012



Volume XI 1 No. 2

Susanne M. Knowles
Editor

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

The Dover Historical Society invites you to the
Grand Re-Opening
Of the Benjamin Caryl House

107 Dedham Street, Dover

Sunday, September 30th

from noon to 4 PM

Costumed 18th Century Interpreter
Children's Activities with Kathy Hirbour
"Insuring the Future of our Past" Exhibit
Vocal Concert by Diane Taraz

Seafood Selections available
from Captain Marden's Cod Squad
(see article on page 2)

Grand Re-Opening of the Caryl House

Celebrate the re-opening of the Benjamin Caryl House with us at an old-fashioned autumn festival on Sunday, September 30th from noon to 4 PM at the Caryl House, 107 Dedham St. The program will feature an eclectic mix of historical entertainment, demonstrations, exhibits and other attractions. Visitors may also admire the handiwork of historic preservation professionals who recently completed work on the property. Picnic seating will be available, with sun and rain protection if needed.

Come early and stay late, starting with a lazy picnic lunch and a chance to catch up with friends and neighbors. Captain Marden's Cod Squad will be offering a variety of seafood choices and will welcome your patronage.

Plan to chat with Dr. John Hart (aka Brian Cortez) a contemporary of our own Dr. George Caryl, between 1-3 PM. Mr. Cortez will portray Dr. Hart who was surgeon of the Massachusetts 2nd regiment from 1777 to 1784; he is quite a conversationalist, eager to hold forth on the practice of medicine and other curious topics dating to the late 18th century.

Children will want to see the cider press at work, to try weaving and to play with toys from the colonial period. Kathy Hirbour, from the American Textile History Museum in Lowell, will be on hand throughout the afternoon leading activities for young visitors.

Costumed docents will provide tours of the House where a treasure of the collection will be on display -- Benjamin Caryl's flame stitch wallet, recently conserved with support from the Dover Cultural Council.

A new exhibit *Insuring the Future of Our Past: Preservation of the Caryl House* documents the goals, methods and accomplishments of the 2012 historic preservation project. The afternoon concludes with a vocal concert at 3 PM featuring Diane Taraz, who charmed the Council on Aging in 2011. Ms. Taraz is back by popular demand performing songs from the Civil War era, and explaining their origins and significance.

Mark Your Calendar

September 8 through November 17 [Museum Open Houses](#)
Open houses at Caryl House and Fisher Barn, 107 Dedham St. and the Sawin Museum, 80 Dedham St., from 1 to 4 PM each Saturday from September 8 through November 17.

Sunday, September 30 from noon – 4 PM [Grand Re-opening of the Caryl House](#)
([see article above](#)).

Saturday, October 20 from 2 – 3 PM *Caring for Your Antiques*

At the Caryl House Mark Yesko, furniture restorer and conservator, will speak on *Caring for Your Antiques*. The owner of Yesko Fine Furniture Restoration in Natick, Mark Yesko carries on a family tradition. His father, a furniture builder, originally started the business in Europe in 1932. After immigrating to the United States in 1932, he opened a furniture restoration business. Mark Yesko continues the highly skilled craftsmanship he learned from his father.

Wednesday, November 7 at 7:30 PM *History of the Norfolk Hunt Club*

At the Dover Library. Dover resident Amey Moot will speak on *The History of the Norfolk Hunt Club*. Ms. Moot's great grandparents moved to Dover more than 90 years ago. She is a member of the Norfolk Hunt Club, the Dover Conservation Commission, the Open Space Committee and is active with the Trustees of Reservations.

Sunday, December 9 2 to 4 PM *Holiday Open House*

The Annual Caryl House Holiday Open House. Please join us for a celebration of the holiday season. Enjoy festive decorations and seasonal music. Period refreshments will be served.

The President's Letter

Local historical societies are filled with little mysteries. For the most part these mysteries are attributable to our forebears' inadequate record keeping and the tendency for artifacts and their provenance to disappear over the course of a century or more. We know, for example, that one of our past Presidents, Civil War veteran Ansel K. Tisdale, assembled and donated a collection of photographic images of his fellow Dover veterans. The full scope of his collection is unknown, as only a few of these images have survived. Among them is the unidentified carte de visite at left.



The image intrigued me for several reasons. First, the subject wears a captain's epaulettes and a kepi bearing crossed swords below the numeral 1. The reverse of the image is stamped with the name of a Boston photographer, Chute of 13 Tremont Row. These details suggested that the subject was a Captain in the 1st Massachusetts Volunteer Cavalry. Given this relatively senior rank it seemed at least possible that his identity might be revealed in other photographs, toward which end I turned to *A History of the First Regiment of Massachusetts Cavalry Volunteers* by Benjamin W. Crownin shield (Houghton Mifflin and Company, Boston 1891). Opposite page 234 I found a very similar photograph which clearly identified the subject as

Captain James A. Baldwin. While a very promising development, this discovery deepened the mystery in that Captain Baldwin's name does not appear on any

known listing of Dover's Civil War veterans. How and why did the image come to the Dover Historical Society?

A Google search for James A. Baldwin led to *Memorials of Deceased Companions of the Commandery of the State of Illinois* published by the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, which reported that James Adams Baldwin, Captain, First Massachusetts Cavalry, had been born in Boston on August 31, 1843 and died in Chicago, IL on March 20, 1901. With the subject of the photograph and his regiment now firmly established, I turned to *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines in the Civil War*. On Page 133 of Volume IV I found that James A. Baldwin enlisted as a musician in Co. A of the 1st Massachusetts Volunteer Cavalry on October 14, 1861. He was 18 years of age at the time and his home town is given as Malden, MA. Baldwin seems to have done well for himself in the army; mustered in on October 22, 1861; he was promoted to Corporal on February 1, 1863, commissioned 2nd Lieutenant from Sergeant on February 16, 1864, and commissioned 1st Lieutenant and then Captain on September 3, 1864. He was mustered out on June 29, 1865 as Captain of Company D.

The regimental history provides some additional context for Baldwin's military career. The 1st Massachusetts Cavalry was mustered into service at Readville, MA between September and October of 1861 and left for the war in late December of that year. It participated in the Antietam Campaign, losing 40 men as prisoners at Poolesville, MD on September 5 of 1862. One of the men captured was another Dover resident, Private Ellis Marden. It was at also at Poolesville that another Dover resident, Corporal George Lewis Miller, the Grandson of Dr. Joseph Caryl, would die of disease in February of 1863. On June 17, 1863 the regiment participated in the battle of Aldie, VA where it lost 24 killed, 42 wounded, and 88 taken prisoner. It was present but not in action at Gettysburg three weeks later.

On a whim I checked the 1860 Federal Census to see if anyone named Baldwin was living in Dover at that time and found James A. Baldwin, age 19 (apparently a census taker's error), residing with Frederick E. Baldwin, age 37, and his wife Caroline. Frederick's occupation is listed as milk man. The 1870 Federal Census shows James A. Baldwin living in Chicago's 5th Ward with John Baldwin, age 41, Caroline H. Baldwin, age 40, Eliza Baldwin, age 68, and Eliza A. Chute, age 4. Additional research revealed that the photographer, Robert Chute, had married Captain Baldwin's younger sister Eliza A. Baldwin in Melrose, MA in 1863 and that she died (probably giving birth to the daughter who bore her name) in 1866. Chute seems to have remarried, placed his young daughter with his brother's family, and worked as a photographer in Boston and Philadelphia before relocating to Buenos Aires in 1885.

In piecing together the rest of the story we may infer that Captain Baldwin was either home on leave or had just been mustered out when he stopped at his brother-in-law's photography studio to have this portrait taken. It was in all likelihood given to Ansel Tisdale for his collection of Dover veteran's photographs.

Elisha F. Lee

When Local History Comes Full Circle

My grandmother believed she was of Native American ancestry. Often she would regale us on the subject and her resulting determination to walk the circumference of Canadarago Lake in a skimpy dress and moccasins to celebrate her January birthday. This she did well into her '80's. Grandma was by then losing the distinction between the real and the imagined so even at the gentle age of six I rejected the notion that some fraction of me descended from the Onondaga, the Mohawk or the Oneida. But I knew that like her I had a fascination with Indians, and I knew why: It was triggered not by Grandma's imaginings but by my first visit to an historic site some 13 miles from her home commemorating the events of November 11, 1778 -- the Cherry Valley Massacre.

Immediately after that visit I organized all the children in the neighborhood (against their will!) to create a theatrical production depicting this blood-thirsty event. Our front porch served as the proscenium arch. The scene opened at the gate of the fort against which my 20th century playmates were stacked like cordwood, victims all of the horrific tomahawk attack. As theater, this motionless display left much to be desired. To say the audience of dogs and patient mothers was baffled would be an understatement. Recognizing there was no hope of rising from these ashes, I proclaimed the play over and moved expeditiously to the distribution of lemonade and popcorn. On this flawed directorial debut I chewed for a very long time. In truth I was a big girl by the time Cherry Valley receded in my thoughts.

Many years later, already a retiree and a card carrying member of the DHS, there came a revelation: Dover's own Daniel Whiting is the hero of the Cherry Valley Massacre. Indeed he is the only officer in this tragically bungled tale that seems to have had his wits about him and a modicum of luck.

What is now Otsego County in upstate New York was then a sparsely populated frontier. After the battle of Saratoga, the Revolutionary War devolved pretty much to a frontier war with British military leaders in Canada arming miscellaneous Loyalists and Native American partisans. There were fears that Cherry Valley was at risk of attack. In his interminable 1904 Memorial Day address Frank Smith quotes Whiting as saying in a letter "the attack gave the settlement a complete surprise notwithstanding all our endeavors to the contrary," and continues "on the morning of 11 Nov, Judge Wells, in whose house some of the Officers lived, barely escaped an Indian arrow. Capt. Whiting ran to the fort, bolted the doors, and fired upon the pursuing foe. Col. Alden, who remained long enough in the house to put on his boots, was struck down by an Indian tomahawk and Col. Stacy was captured." At the start of the day Whiting was 3rd in command; at the end he was alone and in charge, penning notes seeking reinforcements to help hold the fort and making plans to retrieve the bodies of the slain.

I've recently visited Cherry Valley for the first time since Daniel Whiting became a thread in the tapestry of my local history, to braid together the histories of two places I call home.

Barbara H. Palmer
Curator, Benjamin Caryl House

Sources: I am indebted to Craig Whiting, a DHS member and descendent of Daniel Whiting, who shared with me a treasure trove of primary and secondary source material which he has unearthed in his studies. Exploring them has been great fun.

A New Season at Sawin...

Sawin Museum will be opening again for a new season. During the year, there will be new exhibits and more opportunities for community involvement in projects which will help the Museum. We invite you to give us a call and we will be glad to discuss with you possibilities that might interest you.

This Fall, we have several adult groups coming in for evening tours/lectures. So, if you think your group would like to come in for some fun and learn about the town we live in, call us! We will try to accommodate your request for time and date, and will open the Museum, as is possible, for you. Days are OK too (with enough notice). It could be a "Girls (or Boys) Night Out", away from the usual evening routine, or a family group that wants some quality time, we will try to accommodate whatever you might be interested in learning about. Keep in mind that we have Community Hours for those high schoolers who need a project that will fulfill their school requirements.

We still love to work with Girl and Boy Scouts, and welcome Troop projects and Eagle Scout projects. We have had some wonderful projects completed by Scouts that have been most helpful to us, like the mapping of the Highland Cemetery for all Veteran's graves, the transcription of Benjamin Caryl's sermons, and the construction of a walkway from the Museum down to the Hodgson shed. There are other creative projects in progress, as well.

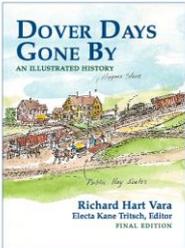
Last year, Sawin Museum was "adopted" for the entire year by Girl Scout Troop 72550. They decided to be emissaries in town for the museum, and also completed their Historical Badge requirements. They used their time at Sawin to fulfill their Bronze Award. They worked as docents in the Museum on Old Home Day, and baked multitudes of cakes for the Historical Cake Sale. Bravo!!! The mountain laurels that are planted in the woods surrounding the museum were planted by them, one for each girl in the troop. They will be more beautiful every year, as they grow, just like the girls. We will miss them, as they were a wonderful group. So, if your troop is looking for a project, consider "adopting" Sawin Museum.

Come in and visit when we are open, or call and make arrangements for a tour at some time convenient for you.

Fay Bacher
Curator, The Sawin Museum

Two Dover Guidebooks

Have you seen the new guidebooks published by the Society? They are companions to the Final Edition of Dick Vara's *Dover Days Gone By* which came out in 2010 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

The second booklet which was published last fall 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 easily visible but were once very vibrant and important aspects of our past.

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

Key Telephone Numbers

President	Elisha Lee	(508)785-1653	eleejr@verizon.net
Vice President	Jack Hoehlein	(508)479-1937	jhoehlein@hotmail.com
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	(508)785-1832	
Volunteers	Amy Wilcox	(617)266-1360	amydwilcox@me.com

Fall 2012 Docent Schedule

DATE	CARYL HOUSE	FISHER BARN	SAWIN MUSEUM
September 8	Dorothy Boylan		Fay Bacher
September 15	Sue Knowles		Amy Wilcox
September 22	Kevin Shale		Clare Burke
September 29	Amy Wilcox		
October 6			Kevin Shale
October 13			
October 20	Barbara Palmer		
October 27	Priscilla Jones		Patty Howe
November 3	Dale Cabot		Clare Burke
November 10	Beth Sagan		Patty Howe
November 17			Fay Bacher

Caryl House Grand Re-Opening Sunday, September 30 from 12 noon to 4 PM
Docents: Clare Burke, Kay Guild, Priscilla Jones,
Floral: Jane Moore, Miriam O'Day, Beth Sagan

Caryl House Holiday Party Sunday, December 9 from 2 to 4 PM
Docents: Clare Burke, Priscilla Jones, Jinny Leonard
Floral: Jinny Leonard, Miriam O'Day

Third 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 send your recommendations for the Historic Preservation Award to Dover Historical Society, Box 534 or DHS1895@aol.com by February 1, 2013. This is the third year that we will present the award.