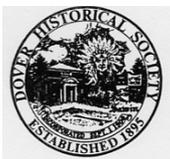


DOVER TIDINGS

Holiday 2004



Volume V No. 2
Priscilla Pitt Jones
Susanne M. Knowles
Editors

The Dover Historical Society
invites you to a
Holiday
Open House

Sunday, December 5, 2004
from 2 to 4 pm
at the
Benjamin Caryl House
107 Dedham Street, Dover

Diane and Michael Jones
seasonal music

Period refreshments

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

A Letter from the President...

Dear Members:

We have just completed a very colorful fall leaf season and with the first snow winter seems to be upon us ahead of time.

Our Fall Program has been extremely successful. On the First Sunday in October, Old Home Day was a wonderful day full of fun, good food, and good companionship. I hope that you all had a chance to join us, especially to watch the Old Time Baseball Game.

On November 6, we offered a new walking tour of Noanet Woods including the site of the Dover Union Iron Mill, cellar holes, and early digs. A hardy group of 16 had a great time with Electa Tritsch and Elisha Lee in charge. Hopefully we can continue this walk each year. I also hope that The Trustees of Reservations will join us in planning a panel display system explaining the mill site along the Peabody Trail.

You should have received the All-Town Appeal. I hope that you will continue your membership, maybe increase your fiscal contribution, and complete our survey as well as become more active as a volunteer. Remember that the Dover Historical Society is an all-volunteer organization, dependent completely on the giving of volunteers of fiscal, physical, and mental support. We can all learn together and support our historical mission together for the benefit of the community. Please contact me for any questions you have.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Caryl Holiday Open House, December 5, from 2-4 PM. We will have Diane Jones and her son Michael leading us in carols and musical good cheer.

Paul H. Tedesco

CARYL HOUSE

Teaching children and adults constitutes a vital part of our mission. With pleasure, Patty Howe instructed five classes of Chickering School second graders, accompanied by their teachers and some parents, in early November. The children gained insights into heat and light in the 1790's, asking unusually good questions. We look forward to their return Spring visit when the entire house and barn will be available for their exploration. Later in the month, David Derian brought a group of Cub Scouts from Medfield. Louise Crane led the boys as they completed a treasure hunt based on a new Dover Insights. Look for this treasure hunt when you visit. The house, barn, and home lot have interesting stories to tell. Please consider having a group with which you are associated utilize our spaces.

I am delighted that for the first time we have an intern at the Benjamin Caryl House. Youme Yai, a junior history major at Wellesley College, is exploring the status and social role of the Caryl family in New England society just before and after the turn of the 19th century on the basis of selected artifacts. We all look forward to learning from and sharing her work.

Plan to join your friends at the Holiday Open House on December 5 from 2 – 4 pm.

Priscilla Pitt Jones
Caryl House Curator

FISHER BARN

One of the secondary benefits of a structure such as the Fisher Barn is additional space and the opportunity to display a variety of objects which have been hidden for a generation or two in the basement of the Sawin Building. As we relocate our collection of "farm equipment", one or two items have surfaced which remind us that the connection between barn and kitchen was far more direct in the 18th and 19th centuries than it is today. Such is the case with two partially complete cheese presses, which have yet to complete their move from basement to barn.

The making of cheese, like the churning of butter, was a task generally performed by the women of the house and it can be argued that upon reconstruction our cheese presses would be more properly displayed in the Buttery of the Caryl House. During the summer months the heat frequently soured milk before the cream could rise and be collected for making butter, thus cheese was made instead. The milk was coagulated through the addition of rennet, an enzyme usually obtained from the stomach of slaughtered new-born calves, and separated into the "curds and whey" of nursery rhyme renown. The liquid whey was then strained off and the curds packed in a wooden hoop. This was then placed in the press and pressure applied to force out the remaining whey and form a firm cheese. After about two days the cheese was removed and rubbed with lard to form an airtight rind. The cheeses were then stored in a cool place and grew firmer in texture and sharper in flavor as they aged. Most people seem to have consumed their cheese within a year; however, they were also an excellent trade item. Local storekeepers purchased large quantities of local cheese and sold it to traders who took it to cities or even as far away as the West Indies.

Elisha Lee
Fisher Barn Curator

SAWIN MUSEUM

The Historical Society was founded in 1895 and the doors of the Sawin Museum opened in 1906. This means that for over 100 years, towns people have been cleaning out their basements and attics and donating all sorts of interesting stuff to us. The only problem lies in the fact that we had no good method of organizing all this stuff until just a few years ago. As we go through the drawers and boxes, it is a bit like rooting through a 200-year-old attic.

We have recently found a history of the *Dover Wood Lot, 1918-1934*. Want to know more? Copies have been made and are available for sale. We have old deeds, bills to the Town in 1870. There are schoolbooks from as early as 1797. We have 2 orders to report for military duty sent to George Chickering in 1810, during the lead-up to the War of 1812. Ah, the stories that can be told!

We have a nearly complete collection of *The Dover Reporter*, which was published from 1966 to 1976.. It is now being microfilmed. We will then have the images digitized with access through our website. Check back in the next issue for further developments.

Glenda Mattes
Assistant Curator Sawin Museum

VAUDEVILLE SHOW

"Two Gals in Gloves: A History of American Music" a vaudeville show for senior audiences will be presented Tuesday, January 11 at 2 pm in the Caryl School cafeteria. Featuring Sarah Freeman and Ann Davidson, the show will present comedy and dance in the early vaudeville tradition. A joint program of the Dover Historical Society and the Council on Aging, the show will be preceded by a 1 pm luncheon. Tickets for the luncheon are \$4.00. For reservations, call the Council on Aging Office 508-785-0032 (press 7, press 2) from 10 am to 2 pm Mondays through Fridays.

SAVE THE DATE

The Dover Historical Society's annual meeting will be held Thursday, March 31 at 7:30 pm in the Great Hall of the Town House. Dover resident, Stephen Marini, a member of the Wellesley College faculty, will be the speaker.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

In an effort to save postage costs, we would like to start sending notices to our members using e-mail. If you have an address, would you please share it with us? This does not mean 'no more regular mail'. We just find that in many situations e-mail is quicker, easier and cheaper. Our address is DHS1895@aol.com. Thanks for helping.

SESQUICENTENNIAL DOVER HISTORY COLLECTION

The Society is planning to utilize Sesquicentennial funds to produce a series of videos from materials created by Richard Vara, which originally ran on DCTV. Raw tapes of historical activities also made by Vara in the DCTV archives will be edited into 20-minute programs on various local topics. Copies of the programs will be presented to Chickering and DCTV for school and public use.

The DHS is seeking assistance from the membership in obtaining a TV with VCR/DVD player that can be used to show these programs at the Sawin Museum on Saturdays while open to the public. Anyone willing to contribute this equipment should contact the DHS at 785-1832 or Paul Tedesco at 785-1933.

In addition, we also will be looking for high school students who want to assist the DHS in developing this program and in editing the video materials. Use the above numbers to indicate your interest.

KEY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Caryl House Curator	Priscilla Jones	508-785-0236	PJONES @SMITHALUMNAE.NET
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