

# DOVER TIDINGS

Fall 2008



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Editor

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[www.doverhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.doverhistoricalsociety.org)

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## *A Message from the President...*



The image at left, a recent donation to the Society's collection, shows the ruins of Dover's first Town Hall which was constructed in 1879 on approximately the same site as the present building.

Then, as now, municipal expenditures were a matter of considerable wrangling; a petition for the structure was submitted in 1859 but the existing "town house" in the basement of the Dover Church was deemed adequate and it was not until 20 years later that the town appropriated \$3,000 for construction and hired Herbert Moseley of Needham as contractor. Work is said to have progressed rapidly and the new Town Hall

was largely completed when it was destroyed by a tornado on the afternoon of July 16, 1879. One workman was killed in the disaster and Frank Smith noted that the town sustained a loss of \$1,926.85.

Undaunted, the selectmen re-engaged Mr. Moseley to build a second structure at a cost of \$4,499.04 which was dedicated on June 17, 1880. Smith observed that the dedication was an occasion of considerable fanfare with "immense" attendance, a full orchestra and quartette, and a dedicatory prayer by the Reverend (and celebrated dime novelist) Horatio Alger of South Natick. The architect of the second Town Hall was Thomas W. Silloway of Boston, designer of both the Medfield Town Hall and the Vermont State House in Montpelier.

This structure proved somewhat more durable than its predecessor, lasting until it was torn down to make way for the present Town Hall in 1922.

*Elisha Lee*  
President

# Caryl House

Beginning September 6 and continuing through November 29, the Caryl House will be open each Saturday from 1 to 4 pm. In addition to the Saturday schedule, the house will be open on Sunday, October 5, from noon to 4 pm as part of Old Home Day and also on Sunday, December 7, from 2 to 4 pm for our Holiday Open House.

The two Sunday dates offer opportunities to visit the property for special social gatherings. For the festivities as part of Old Home Day on October 5, a member of each of several garden clubs will arrange flowers for the rooms in the Caryl House, and from 2 to 3 pm, there will be music featuring Dennis Dowd and Prudence Jones on the banjos. On December 7, guests will be welcomed to the home of Dover's first minister with lights in the windows, beautiful seasonal music by Diane Jones and Michael Jones, period refreshments made from the recipes in the Battelle Family Receipts and children's activities.

Research, conservation and education are central to our mission. Priscilla Jones located a high quality nursery with special interest in Old Garden Roses from whom we have ordered five of the period appropriate Gallicas. They were planted in the Parlor Garden and are thriving. With a liberal application of Noanet Gold in the spring and with her expert care, Ellen Little had the gardens and the fruitery in beautiful condition for the Garden Party and thanks to Steve Little's pruning and shaping, the lilacs are very much improved. Our conservation program with particular emphasis on Caryl family artifacts continues and will allow for the attractive and protected display of these items which add personal and visible detail to the Benjamin Caryl family history. One of these is a pocket belonging to Sarah Messenger Kollock Caryl. In November, the 2nd grade classes from the Chickering School will meet at the house with Patty Howe and Priscilla Jones and learn about heating and lighting when the Caryls lived there in the 18th and 19th centuries.

It is very important to recognize and thank all the wonderful volunteers for their interest and participation in these many and varied activities which make this schedule at the Caryl House possible. Our sincere appreciation to the volunteers and the public for their support.

*Dorothy Boylan*  
Caryl House Curator

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# Fisher Barn

Early American settlers in our region had an appreciation for a mild winter, perhaps more so than today's residents of Dover. In addition to the many abundant and obvious reasons for welcoming a mild winter, one less obvious reason was the increased probability of a good cranberry crop for the following fall.

Long before the large commercial cranberry bogs of today, individual families relied on small nearby bogs for the harvesting of this useful crop which was ideally suited to the acidic wetlands and sandy soil of the region. It has been noted that the Native Americans in the region taught early settlers the benefits of this regional staple. Local residents harvested the crop and often used it to

create Pemmican, which is simply a regional form of jerky, or preserved dried meat. Most often, cranberries were pounded into salted dried venison to create a tasty natural preservative. Preserving food stocks was serious business in those days! It wasn't long before colonial cooks began mixing the fruit with maple syrup for what has become traditional New England fare and American holiday favorites.

A cranberry rake was a tool that most local families relied on. This is an open ended box on a pole with the bottom side sporting rake teeth that were designed to skim along the surface of a bog and collect the cranberry fruit. A fine example of a local cranberry rake that dates back to an era between 1800 and 1900 is on display at the Fisher Barn. This tool and many like it that are showcased at Fisher Barn help us comprehend how the early settlers of our town lived and worked in a very self reliant manner.

*Jack Hoehlein*  
Fisher Barn Curator

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## Sawin Museum

It has been a busy summer at the Sawin Museum. The Hodgson exhibit is down, put away and returned to its owners. We are busy collecting items relating to Amelia Peabody for the new exhibit *Amelia Peabody, Her Life and Works*. We have been loaned a couple of her small ceramics, but we would very much like to have one of her larger sculptures on display in the museum. If you have access to anything relating to Amelia, her sculpture, Mill Farm, Noanet Woodlands or the Dover Union Iron Mill, we would appreciate hearing from you.

It has been busy also with several new volunteers helping to catalog the existing collection. We have made great gains over the last few years, but a lot remains to be done. There are things in the museum that we don't know we have and lots of objects that need photo documentation. Fay Bacher, Erika Lert and her children, Nan Leonard and her children and Barbara Palmer have been a huge help. Joe Marcus helped us clean up the membership database this summer.

Looking at our guest book and under 100 visitors to last year's exhibit makes us realize how many Dover residents have never been inside the Sawin Museum. We have a collection of Native American artifacts dating to the 18th century and items recovered from the Wilson and Larrabee Farms on Strawberry Hill in the circa 1980 archaeological dig on permanent display on the second floor. The basement holds our household and small industry items – most interesting for our younger citizens because most of it can be touched. Also most interesting to the children is the diorama of Old Dover Center.

So please mark October 4th and 5th on your calendar. Come by and learn all that you didn't already know about Amelia Peabody and see the many other treasures that lurk within our walls.

*Glenda Mattes*  
Sawin Museum Curator

# Key Telephone Numbers

President	Elisha Lee	508-785-1653	ELEEJR@verizon.net
Vice President	Priscilla Jones	508-785-0236	PJONES@smith.alumnae.net
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Fisher Barn Curator	Jack Hoehlein	508-479-1937	JACK_HOEHLEIN@ml.com
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Fund Raising	Heather Hodgson	508-785-1977	UNPACKINGSOLUTIONS@comcast.net
	Alison Campbell	508-655-2728	ACLANDSCAPEDESIGN@verizon.net

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## Entering the 21st Century

Do we have your email address? Please consider sharing it with us. We would like to reduce our paper usage and save the cost of postage. We would eventually like to send Tidings by email. We would also like to have a means to communicate with the entire membership quickly when there are issues or events that come up on short notice. Don't worry, Tidings will continue to come by regular mail as long as we don't have your email address. Also please rest assured, as currently is the case with your address and phone number, that the information will be for use by the Dover Historical Society ONLY. Please email to us at [info@doverhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@doverhistoricalsociety.org).

# Old Home Day

*www.DoverOldHomeDays.org*

## Schedule of Events

**Saturday and Sunday, October 4th & 5th, 2008**

### October 4

**4:00 – 5:30 pm– Old-Time Exhibition Baseball Game**–Caryl Park or Chickering Fields. “Red Sox” vs. “Eagles” rematch of local players sporting old-fashioned uniforms.

**6:30 pm - Blue Ribbon Bar-B-Q** – American Legion, 32 Dedham St. Friends, family and fun plus great Bar-B-Q. Pulled pork, chicken, beans and slaw. Dinner reservations suggested - \$14 adults and \$9 seniors/children.

### October 5

**10:00 am – 4:00 pm – 3rd Annual Craft Fair** – Town House, 5 Springdale Ave. Dover locals and neighboring artisans selling hand-crafted treasures. Quilts, baby blankets, paintings, customized monogramming, jewelry, and more! Classic hand-cut silhouettes by Carol Lebeaux --For a silhouette appointment, call Heather Hodgson at 508-785-1977. Walk-ins fine too!

**12:00 noon– Ringing of the Dover Church Bells**

**12:00 – 2:00 pm - Antique Car Show & Parade** – Militia Field across from the Library. The parade at 2:00 pm will feature hounds and horses from the Norfolk Hunt Club. Please vote for Best Car in Show! Visit with hounds before parade.

**12:00 noon - Lunch Cart by the Car Show**–Burgers and dogs from Dover Market.

**Noon -- 4:00 pm - Sawin Museum** – 80 Dedham St. Amelia Peabody memorabilia and her impact on Dover’s history. McGregor McGehee will provide musical entertainment. Hodgson House walking tours start at 1:30 and 3:30 pm.

**Noon – 4:00 pm - Caryl House and Fisher Barn** – 107 Dedham St. Powisset Farm selling organic produce, pumpkins available, too. Tours of the house and barn. Banjo concert with Dennis Dowd and Prudence Jones starts at 2:00 pm. Modern Yankee Blacksmith from 11 am on demonstrating his craft.– Field Day - Old-fashioned children’s games including tug-a-war, three-legged race, potato-sack race, and the infamous egg toss. Games start at 2:30 pm. Come match wits with past State Checkers Champion Richard White, too!

**5:00 pm- Grange Supper and Apple Pie Contest** - American Legion, 32 Dedham St. Homemade Apple Pie Contest! – call to enter 508-785-1977 Our Ham and Bean Supper is so popular we’ve added carved Turkey! Come one! Come All! Dinner reservations suggested. \$12 adults and \$8 seniors/children. For supper reservatios, contact Heather Hodgson at 508-785-1977 or oldhome-day@comcast.net.

# DHS Schedule of Events

## Fall 2008

o Saturday / Sunday, October 4 & 5 Old Home Day - see schedule on reverse of this page.

o Thursday, Oct. 9 -- Michael Tougias, author and lecturer, will speak on *King Philip's War* with special emphasis on the local area. Refreshments at 7:00 pm followed by program at 7:30 pm at the Dover Library.

o Wednesday, Oct. 29 -- Tour of the Dorothy Quincy Homestead in Quincy. This house is owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Colonial Dames. It dates from 1686 and was home to five generations of Quincy family members. Car pool from the Town Garage parking lot at 9:15 am to arrive at the Homestead for the tour at 10 am.

o Sunday, Dec.7 -- 2 -4 pm -- Holiday Open House at Caryl House. Diane Jones and Michael Jones will provide seasonal music. Period refreshments will be served.

All welcome \*\* No Charge \*\* For further information, or to ask about a ride to the Tougias lecture contact Nan Leonard (508-785-0123). or [nleonard11@aol.com](mailto:nleonard11@aol.com).

## Fall Docent Schedule

### Saturdays 1-4 pm

	<u>CARYL HOUSE</u>	<u>FISHER BARN</u>	<u>SAWIN MUSEUM</u>
Sept.6	Dorothy Boylan	Jack Hoehlein	Closed
Sept 13	Louise Crane	Bob Kelleher	Closed
Sept 20	Joy Bushman	Jack Hoehlein	Closed
Sept 27	Jane Moore	Paul Tedesco	Closed
Oct 4	Priscilla Jones	Jack Hoehlein	Shirley McGill
Oct 11	Louise Crane	Dave Stapleton	Dorothy Boylan
Oct 18	Bev Ryburn	Bob Kelleher	Jessica Hall
Oct 25	Sue Knowles	Bob Bond	Audrey Bailey
Nov 1	Nancy Ferguson	Bob Bond	Nan Leonard
Nov 8	Louise Crane	Rich White	Priscilla Jones
Nov 15	Audrey Bailey	Bob Kelleher	Betty Brady
Nov 22	Louise Crane		Erika Lert
Nov 29	Betty Brady		Clare Burke

Sunday, Oct. 5 OLD HOME DAY

Teents Adams, Dorothy Boylan, Alison Campbell, Louise Crane, Heather DePaola, Sue Knowles, Shirley McGill, Priscilla Jones, Bev Ryburn

Sunday, Dec. 7 HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Dorothy Boylan, Joy Bushman, Dale Cabot, Louise Crane, Kay Guild, Priscilla Jones, Pam Kunkemueller, Miriam O'Day