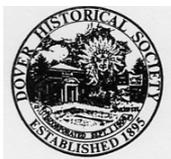


DOVER TIDINGS

Holiday 2007



Volume VII No. 3

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 a*

Holiday

Open House

*Sunday, December 9, 2007
from 2 to 4 pm
at the Benjamin Caryl House
107 Dedham Street, Dover*

*Diane and Michael Jones
Seasonal Music*

Children's Activities

Period Refreshments

A Letter from the President...

Dear Dover Historical Society Members:

I hope this finds you all well, in good spirits, and prepared for the coming winter. Since we last talked, the Society properties have had an intense cleaning and the grounds have been manicured.

In October we had another great Old Home Day, with a marvelous car show and the opening of the Hodgson Family and Factory exhibit. Much was also added to OHD by the meeting of some 40 members of the Hodgson Family to celebrate the day. Last March, Jim and Paul Tedesco published *Portable and Prefabricated Houses in the Thirties*, which reprinted the 1935 and 1939 company catalogs. The text clearly established E.F. Hodgson as America's first prefabricator and his proper role in the history of the American building trades.

To support these efforts, the Hodgson family members broke ground on the Haven Street side of the Sawin to begin putting back up the late Toni Weather's Hodgson Garden Shed which she left to us by will. This project will be carried out by Joe DeMarco, a Dover resident.

In November 2006, many of you remember seeing the 1861 Everett Civil War Flag displayed at Tim Wider's house on Miller Hill. It was a beautiful event allowing the community to see something last seen on Farm Street, April 9, 1865, in celebration of the surrender at Appomattox Court House.

On Armistice Day, 2007, the 1861 Everett Civil War Flag Restoration and Reproduction Committee flew a copy of this very important Dover artifact made by Emilie Chamberlain. You will have noted the theme that we established for the 2007-2008 All Town Annual Appeal around the Everett Flag in the Appeal materials.

I know we are all greatly concerned about the state of the American economy. We all have the need for economic stability as well as needing to continue to support those organizations and actions that work to make us and Dover stronger as a community.

I appeal to all of you to continue to support the Dover Historical Society and its mission and to increase your giving if you can because the Everett Flag and other valuable artifacts in our collection will not survive without proper attention, stabilization, and display. In these troubled times, as an historian, I would argue that as a community we need more than ever to protect artifacts such as the Everett Flag which truly define us.

We look forward to your continued support of our efforts to preserve our history for our future and our children. I hope that you will attend the December 9 Holiday Gala at the Caryl House. Be sure to stop by and say hello, drink a cup of punch, and enjoy the gathering of the town folk.

Paul H. Tedesco
President

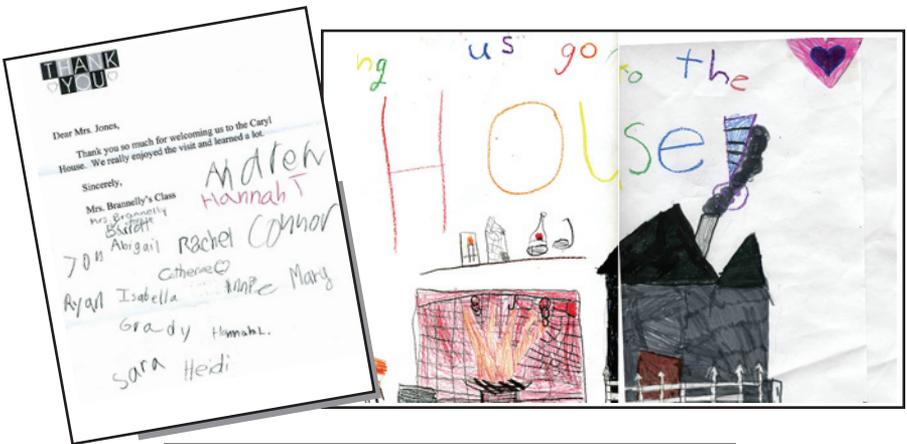
Caryl House

Priscilla Jones and I had the opportunity to take more than 100 second graders through the Caryl House early in November. The cold rainy conditions did nothing to dampen the spirits of the children! What an attentive curious group of children we had the pleasure to entertain in front of a nice warm fire in the kitchen.

The children were shown how the Caryl family might have heated and lit their home from the time of the Revolution until the mid 1800's. We discussed how candles were made and the difficult process of keeping a fire going all day for cooking and heat. The children asked so many thought provoking questions and left us scrambling for our resources to find all the answers.

After the tours we received some wonderful thank you notes and drawings, some of which you will see below. We are thrilled at the enthusiasm the children of Dover bring to the process of keeping history alive! We look forward to showing them the entire house in the spring.

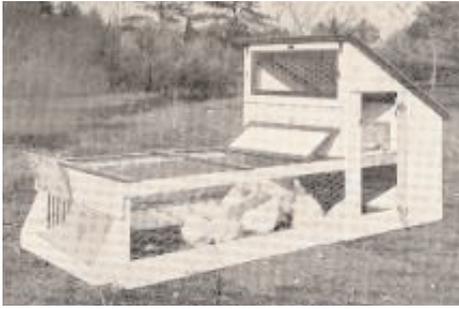
Patty Howe
Assistant Curator Caryl House



Fisher Barn

Readers may remember the Hodgson hen house assembled and displayed outside the Sawin Museum on Old Home Day. While not one of our older artifacts, this particular structure has many close ties to the town of Dover. It is, strictly speaking, an example of the E. F. Hodgson Company's Colony Laying House No. 0, made right here in Dover. The side pieces were discovered hidden in the rafters of the Fisher barn while that larger structure

was being disassembled at its original location on Centre Street, and the Colony Laying House was meticulously restored by town resident Joe



DeMarco. Interested readers can follow the progress of Joe's current Hodgson restoration project, a 10' by 10' Garden Shed, presently being erected at the intersection of Dedham and Haven Streets on the grounds of the Sawin Museum. While it is difficult to determine the exact age of these structures, both probably date from the 1920's.

Elisha Lee

Fisher Barn Curator

Sawin Museum

While we are celebrating the history of the Hodgson Family and the Hodgson Portable House Factory in Dover, we haven't said much about the first Hodgson family in Dover.

Ernest F. Hodgson's mother, Caroline Bentley Hodgson, was born in Staffordshire, England on November 5, 1836. She came to Guthrie Center, Iowa with her parents in 1857 where she taught school for a year. Apparently Thomas Hodgson had been courting her before the Bentley family left England because after a year in Iowa, she went back to Staffordshire where she and Thomas were married in 1858.

The newly married couple then came back to Iowa to be close to the rest of Caroline's family. Their first child, Anna Florence, was born there in May 1860. Sometime before the birth of their second child, Edith S, in 1862, they went back to Staffordshire where Thomas' family was apparently still residing. The fact that the Civil War had begun may have also played a part in this return to England.

By 1864, they were back in America for the birth of their first son, Edgar Washington (named after the city of his birth) in Washington, DC. By 1872, they were living in Medford, MA where Ernest Franklin, the great grandfather of Heather Hodgson DePaola and Jennifer Hodgson Brady, was born on May 20, 1872. Their last child, Marion, was born in Dover in November 1876.

Thomas was an accomplished watchmaker, a talent he may have passed on to his eldest son, Edgar who owned a jewelry business in Boston in the early years of the 20th century.

Thomas died at Mass General Hospital on November 5, 1905. Caroline continued to live in Dover in the duplex house at 7-7A Haven St, where she died in 1920. Both Thomas and Caroline are buried in Highland Cemetery.

If you haven't visited the Hodgson Family and Hodgson Portable House Factory exhibit at the Sawin Museum, please come by to learn more about this family and their later accomplishments in Dover. The exhibit will be up through next June.

Glenda Mattes

Sawin Museum Curator

DHS Schedule of Events

o Sunday, Dec. 9th-- 2-4 pm Holiday Open House at the Caryl House.

o Thursday, Feb. 28 -- 7:30 pm at the Dover Library. "The Modern Yankee Blacksmith", Jay Cardero, will discuss techniques and local history of blacksmithing. Refreshments will be served at 7 pm.

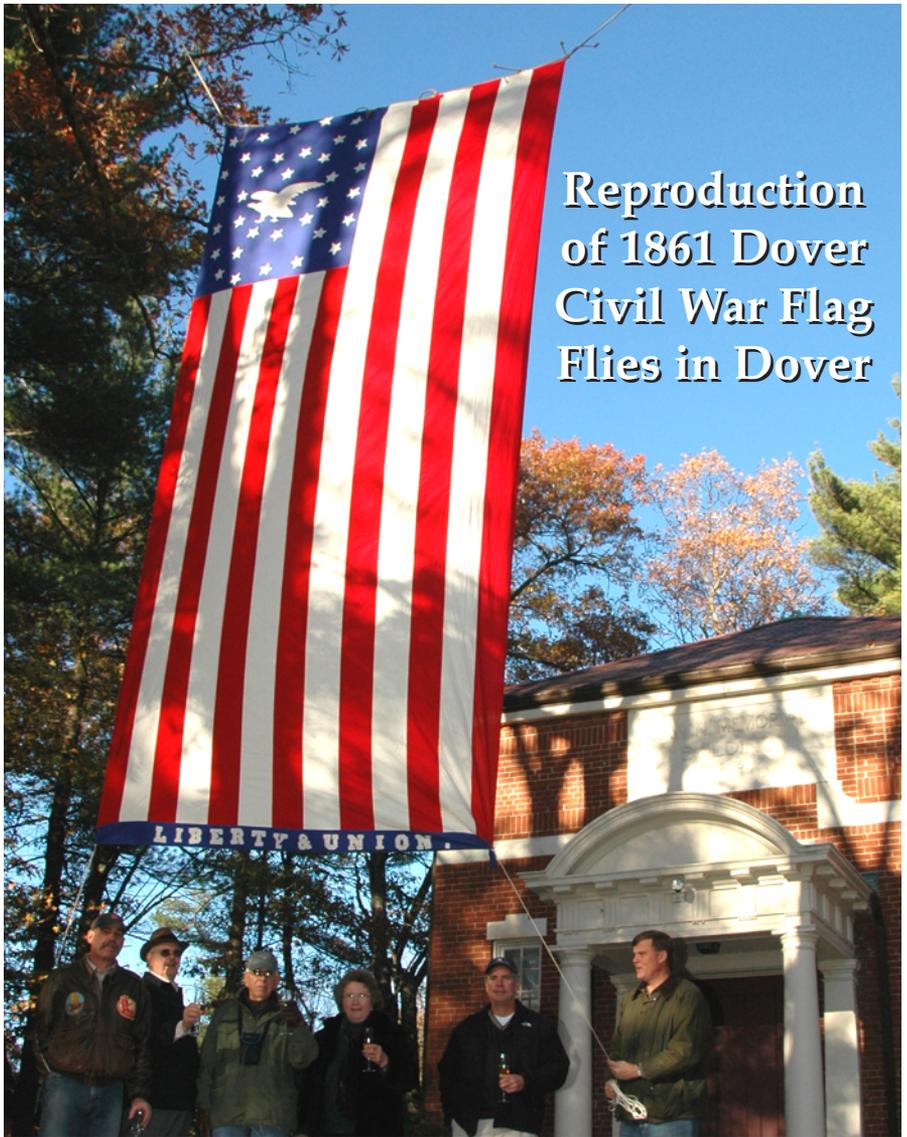
o Thursday, March 27 --- Annual Meeting of the Society at the Town House. Joseph Hunter, film maker and Director of Communications at Olin College, will speak on his book *Return to Norembega*, which is based on the work of Robert Pollack, an amateur historian who collected tales and facts about the park. Refreshments will be served at 7 pm..

o Sunday, June 1 -- 2-4 pm – Caryl House Garden Party..

All welcome ** No Charge ** For more information, call Joy Bushman (785-1686).

Key Telephone Numbers

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Fisher Barn Curator	Elisha Lee	508-785-1653	ELEEJR @VERIZON.NET
Sawin Museum Curator	Glenda Mattes	508-785-2171	DOVERGGM @COMCAST.NET
Public Programs	Joy Bushman	508-785-1686	TBUSHMAN @COMCAST.NET



Reproduction of 1861 Dover Civil War Flag Flies in Dover

On Armistice Day, November 11th this year, a replica of the 1861 Everett Civil War Flag flew for the first time at the Dover Historical Society's Sawin Museum in Dover Center. Commissioned by Civil War enthusiast Tim Wider with the reproduction and sewing work by Emilie Chamberlain, of Dover, it became an exact copy of the historic 1861 flag that is part of the Dover Historical Society collection. Pictured are members of the Historical Society Board of Directors raising the flag on its maiden journey in front of the museum. From left to right -- Tim Wider, Dave Stapleton, Paul Tedesco, Betty Brady, Jack Hoehlein, Elisha Lee.