



Fall 2024 Newsletter

Stanton-Davis Homestead Museum

"To Protect, maintain, and preserve the Stanton-Davis Homestead and artifacts with the purpose of creating a museum and educational center open to the public, and dedicated to the memory of the Thomas Stanton and Davis family, Native

Americans, and African American slaves, associated with the history of the homestead-all of whom were instrumental, in the founding of Connecticut."

Greetings

Fall is here, on the tail of the fastest summer. A lot of efforts continue at the Homestead; to further our restoration. Events list chronologically.

April Visit

The Rhode Island group of South County Museums, was given a tour of the museum on April 17th. We met this group through a very nice "Get to know your local museums" event held at the Westerly Library, and arranged by the Westerly Historical Society. There are slew of great programs going on, at our local museums. Most are conducted and run by volunteer energy. After the tour, their agreement was-that we have certainly done a ton of work!



May Day Plant Sale

Most of us remember some celebration practiced in our formative school years, in recognition of May 1. At PS 40 on Staten Island, NY, 65 yrs. ago, there was dancing with a ribbon strung from a pole centered in the cement, which was the "playground". Girls went one way-boys the other. Clueless faux Celtic traditions aside, another observance, involving plants, which was much more fun, was held

on the front lawn this past spring. With the help of volunteers and board members, roughly 400 plants were dug, potted, transported, and advertised. There was a great selection of spring ephemerals, blossoming bulbs, shade and sun perennials, trees, jams, gently used tools, and even baked goods to munch with the free coffee. The weather cooperated, and quite a local turnout, helped our fundraiser, become a success. There's a rumor that this may take place again, in 2025.

Board News

Larry Davis, an original founding board member, and acting treasurer for the Homestead, stepped down from his position this past June. Larry has been a sage advisor, and a valuable contributor of both his time and materials, in furthering the restoration and operation of the museum. He will continue, on the board. We thank him for his time and dedication to our efforts. Stay well!

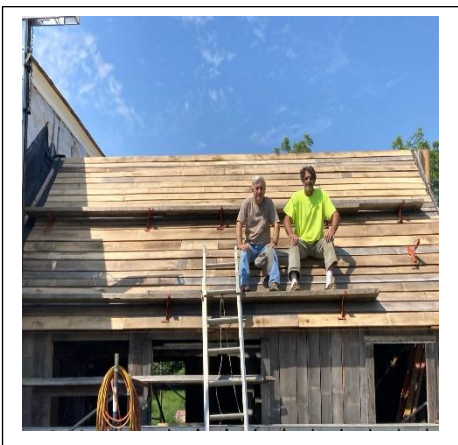
Stephen Juers has agreed to take on the treasurer's position. He and his family have summered on Osbrook Pt for close to 20 yrs. He will shortly become a full-time resident, on the completion of his house. His original background was as a chemist, then as a scientist at Pratt and Whitney, testing hazardous materials. This was followed by becoming a joint manager of a P&W and USAF planning committee-of strategic materials and budget. He became a member of another 501(c3), Winding Trails, and served on their board of directors, in many degrees, including establishing and overseeing budget goals and projections. We at the museum, agree that he is a good fit for our future plans, and welcome him. Get those spreads sheets going!



Ongoing at Cheese Room Restoration

Work progresses. All plates, corner posts, joists (floor and ceiling) have either been repaired or replaced. An additional, two support posts, were added. The new restoration to the east wall and boarding is done. Rafters were repaired or fashioned new, and assembled for the install, which took place on August 3rd. We thank James Fawcett, and crew, for arriving with their portable crane (that they motored up 95 from Stamford). We also thank George Bliss, Mark Bancroft, Steve Pettis, Kent Fawcett, Helen Peterle, Doug Sprague, and Jim Ricciardone, who all pitched in-on various work days, prior and the day of, to help push this project farther along. Roofing boards were laid this past September, by Gil Bliss with help by Steve Pettit and Kent Fawcett. The finish touch, of a winter coat of Tyvek, to keep out the rain, has been applied.

Now we are addressing the restoration of the gable end boarding, so that roof trim can be applied, and the shakes can go on the roof. There is some restoration of the west wall too, that will be done before the roof goes on. As always, Gil Bliss will guide our volunteers through. Go online to www.stanton-davishomestead.org, to follow along with some great videos, and photos, that further illustrate, our progress.



July Program

Professor Jim O'Donnell was our expert scientist for our July program on the local effects of sea level rise in our area (close to the Narraganset Bay area). Good news for us! In his graphs and data for a 50 year span, three feet of water rise is expected overall. The areas that are flooding over roads now, will continue. Areas closer to NYC, that have built upon, or eradicated wetland, will experience a 9 foot increase, over the same time period-glug, glug. Start your planning.

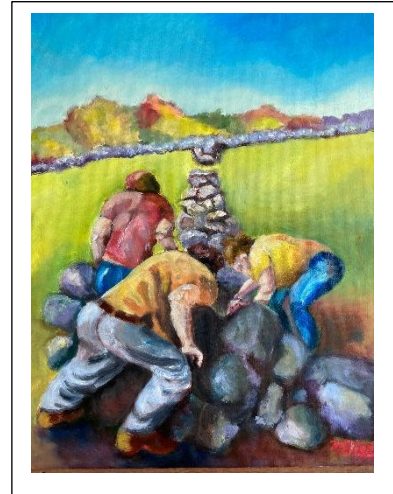
Members and Volunteer Supper

On August 14th, we had a lovely late afternoon get together on the Homestead lawn. The weather was perfect, and the potluck presentation rivaled some of the areas' best restaurants! It was a nice change for those who came, to heft a fork, instead of a hammer, and have a delicious meal with fellow volunteers.



Plein Air of Stonington

Nine local artists visited the Homestead to paint and draw on August 24th, a beautiful sunny late summer day. We hope to encourage them in a repeat visit next year.



Pop up Cellar News

Board members Brian McCormick, Steve Jures, Mark Bancroft, and Gil and Merry Bliss have been cleaning out the dirt floor cellar, in preparation to install a membrane on the ground. We have removed trash, and measured. The membrane itself will be purchased locally. The supplier involved cannot give us a break on cost this time, so it will be an unbudgeted figure around \$1,500. We feel that after last year's and this past winters' rains, we couldn't ignore the migrating moisture, and put this off any longer.

Would a member care to help us out with the cost? We would appreciate all donations. A check can be mailed to:

Stanton-Davis Homestead Museum
 576a Greenhaven Rd
 Pawcatuck, CT 06379

Upcoming Board Elections

Its time for elections for 2025. We currently have positions opening for: Programs, Membership, and Secretary of Minutes, and communications. The board meets once a month on the second Monday at 5pm. Because of distance issues, meetings have been conducted online through Zoom.

We are looking for creative, dynamic people, who are used to solving problems, sometimes with their donated time and hands. They should have a dedication to the value of preservation, and the history of this outlier Pequot colony landmark, and the vital role it played- in the early precolonial history of native tribes and enslaved African peoples. Preservation of the standing structure is paramount, so that the Homestead can tell its story for future generations.

A basic understanding of computer and Word, and Excel programs, is also a plus. Please contact us at our website: president@stanton-davishomestead.org if you feel that you have a volunteering spirit.

Its Time!

Membership renewals for 2025. Just fill out the form, subscription fees are the same, and mail it to:

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You may visit, our website: www.stanton-davishomestead.org and download our membership form or use PayPal to make your payment. Cost of membership entitle our supporters to an hour plus guided tour of the museum, plus two newsletters, and updates, on our activities. For those of you who signed up with us at our September Open house. Please be sure to check your emails in the future, as we go electronic with our newsletter, and additional info.