

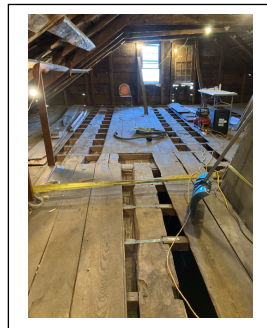
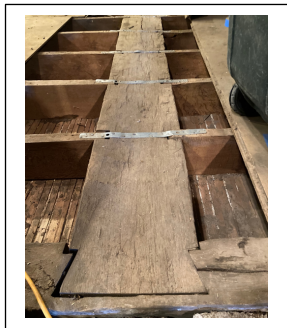
Stanton-Davis Homestead Museum Newsletter  
Spring 2023



Greetings!

So much new, and good news to relate to you. As you can see from these top three photos, work on the main house body, has begun! Many kudos to Jacob and Bob from Architectural Preservation Group, for braving those chill winds off the water, to do the physical work that was needed to get the Homestead back together.

There's a ton of work that has been done in the attic. Steel brackets now tie the summer beams into the east, west, and south plates, and overhang. All floor joists in the attic have been married to the summer beams with steel ties. The roof body is being raised up so that roof rafters can lock into place, once again, with the north plate. The attic is a forest of helping timber, and come-a-longs, that will be taken down once this is done. It boggles the mind.



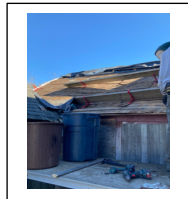
Cheese Room

At the same time, a dedicated band of volunteers showed on September 29<sup>th</sup>, to start taking the roof, rafters, and attic floor up. We worked successive weekends-despite weather, to prepare the cheese room to be ready for restoration.

We wish to thank the following people- hardy souls all, for dedicating their time and labor- Kent and Sharon Fawcett ( who drove up from East Stamford!), Helen and Sandy Peterle, Jim

Ricciardone, Mark Bancroft, Peter Ogle, George Bliss, Andy Meek, and members of the board- Gil and Merry Bliss, and Brian McCormick.

We moved , wrapped, and stored items against the weather, and then proceeded to de-rubberize, de-roof, and de-nail the roof itself. The three remaining walls stand alone, with support. Two sections of new sill have been installed. Coffee, snacks, and lunch helped alleviate the cold.



### *Volunteer Updates*

As always, we love our volunteers! Come join us at our next work party. We generally work Saturday mornings from 9-12 noon. Contact Brian McCormick if you're interested in joining us: [www.vicepresident@stanton-davishomestead.org](mailto:www.vicepresident@stanton-davishomestead.org) We will keep you updated on times and jobs thru our Mail Chimp site.

Meet and Greet on April 22 Earth Day- 4:30 to 6pm

Stop by the Homestead for an informal hello to meet some of the people involved in our projects. Knock on our back door, have a snack and beverage and learn more.

Brick Cleaning -June Sat June 3, 9am-12am

Bring work gloves, a scraper, and a folding stool if you have one, so that we can clean and sort the usable brick that will be used for the main house stack. Outside work.

Brush Clearing-Tues April 25- 9am-12pm

Porcelain Berry vine, and assundry small gauge trees are taking over our stone wall to the east. Help us cut and pull vines out of the apple tree. Bring work gloves, hand clippers, and long handled clippers. Water provided. We also will work on site prep for a stone wall rebuild later in the fall.

Stone Wall Building with Thaler Hefel -Saturday October 7- 9am-12pm

As a safety measure we will put back a stone wall. Learn the technique of making a round bone wall. Bring leather work gloves, and a crow bar. Snack and water provided.

Cheese Room Ongoing

After recovering from a medical issue, Gil will be looking for people eager to cut out and then frame the cheese room. He will be at the site working, at the end of April. Interested in helping? Contact him via : [www.president@stanton-davishomestead.org](http://www.president@stanton-davishomestead.org)

## Funding Update

We are waiting to hear back from the Board of Finance (Stonington) about our share of the Capital Improvements grant (CIP). We may be fortunate in receiving \$10,000 for our ongoing restoration efforts. Many thanks to the BF, and Stonington Selectwomen for recognizing our Homestead as an integral piece of the town's history.

We also are in the running for the Historic Restoration Fund grant (HRF) from the State of CT. This past week, the members of State Historical Preservation Organization (SHPO), Erin Fink, Julie Carmelich and Michael Forino of Preservation CT, met with board member Gil Bliss, (President) to ask more questions about about our restoration plans. We are keeping our fingers, and toes crossed, 'til we hear back from them in early May.



### ***Shazam! Eversource Update***

Suddenly, we heard back from Eversource in February. Art Hayward has redrawn the property survey, and sent a copy to them, and we are in dockett to receive our dig date. Our attorney Maggie Steele, and the town has a copy. The excavator, Tim Coon, of William Coon and Son, along with Jason Zelek, owner/ electrician of Connected Systems, and John Kindelan, of Viking Supply are all onboard to either donate their time, or materials. It looks like our hook-up will be a reality.

### **New SDHM Movie**

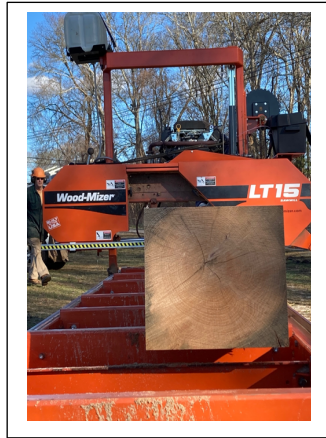
We are thrilled! Greg Pettys, a local history buff and professional photographer, and videographer, has created a new summary of Stanton-Davis Homestead in video form, that can be viewed on our website: [www.stanton-davishomestead.org](http://www.stanton-davishomestead.org), ( go to menu and click on History) or see it directly on your server, at Westerly Live. Its roughly 5 minutes in length, gives a brief history, and short peek into present day restoration plans. We love our Vimeo with Whit Davis, but now we show ourselves in the present day. Beautifully photographed- using overhead camera as well as spoken dialog and music, it is a reverent description of our beloved Homestead.

### ***Pictures Are Worth a Thousand Words***

We've had four sessions of milling wood for our cheese room restoration. The weather was mostly with us, but we had some hardy volunteers to help mill, stack, and paint the ends. Special thanks go to Larry Davis, board member, for donating the wood from his farm, and for use of his tractor, and beautiful sawmill. Also, a thank you to Kent Fawcett who trailered up some logs, and along with Sharon Fawcett, gave their time and labor .

Each session ran about 4 hours, and we went through some fine oak logs. We are just about there for stock, with one more milling for floorboards to go.

Thanks also- Gil and Merry Bliss, Helen Peterle, and Brian McCormick.



### **Mark Your Calendar for Open House-Saturday, September 16, 2023**

Guided tours-10am-11am,11:30am-12:30pm, 1pm-2pm Limit 15 per group. Contact Brian McCormick at :[www.vicepresidentstanton-davishomestead@gmail.com](mailto:www.vicepresidentstanton-davishomestead@gmail.com) to reserve time.  
Cost/\$35 non-members, \$20 member

**Become a Member! Vist: [www.stanton-davishomestead.org](http://www.stanton-davishomestead.org), to become a member.**

*“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.”*