



Stanton-Davis Homestead Museum Spring 2025 Newsletter

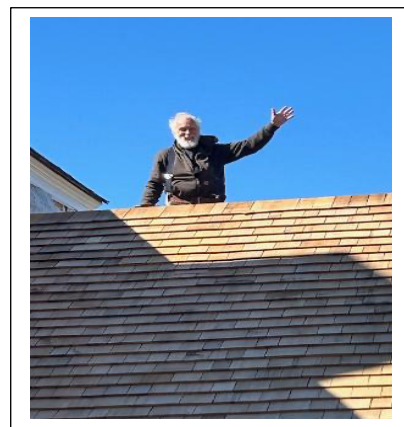
Welcome!

On the first day of the time change, and a beautiful day, we are glad to bring you news of our winter doings, and of our projected plans for the coming year. If you were here in southern New England this winter, you would know that winter had a frosty bite. This curtailed some of our earlier projects underway. We are now back to it. We also are excited about our programs for the coming season.

Another Bite of Cheese?

We are so happy to report that the Cheese-Room roof is completed! The next stage of work will be to cover the bare earth (under the floor joists) with a vapor barrier, and then lay a sub flooring. We are scheduling a milling session within the next month, April, for floorboards. We could use any volunteers to help. Contact: Gil Bliss to sign up.

vice-president@stanton-davishomestead.org



Growing

Donna Brandelli was elected to be the new board secretary in March of this year. Donna was formerly a forensics photographer from the LAPD. She is now retired and living in North Stonington, in a home that she and her husband restored. She traces her ancestry to this area, and the Stanton family. Very active in historical organizations, she offers a genealogy service. The board welcomes her enthusiasm and energy, and we look forward to another history buff to help us on our journey.

Updates on Paperwork

Our President Brian McCormick has spent the winter months working on an updated museum collection policy. He was helped with SDHM member Dana Hewson, and student intern Scott Andruk. Scott is studying archival curation for his master's. At the same time, Mark Bancroft had been working over the past year to update the original museum bylaws. The suggested improvements were emailed to the membership, and notice placed on our website. It was put to a vote by January 1, 2025. The board recognized the approval in their January board meeting.

Cellar Completed

Those of you who regularly check in with our website photos, saw our fall activity in the cellar. Vacuuming was completed (volunteers and board members) a vapor barrier was laid (board members), spraying mildewcide completed, and a cover for the milk "pit" was constructed by Mark Bancroft. A proper dehumidifier was donated by Gil Bliss. As we speak, Mark Bancroft is working on the outdoor hatch-making repair to hinges, and sanding the doors, for a fresh coat of paint. Things are moving along!

Early Spring Cleaning

To prepare for future work on the inside of the Homestead, we needed to clean and organize the other parts that were largely left untouched since the first phase of structural work. (2013) We found all the rest of the spiders. The pantry off the keeping room was thoroughly vacuumed, repairs made, and trim boards stored were identified and labeled. Ditto for the NE ground floor bedroom. Everything was taken out, vacuumed, and then polished. The walls were vacuumed, two shelving units were put together, and all was covered with painter's plastic drop cloth. As Brian said, "The last of the scary rooms are finished". This was done in a group effort by Mark Bancroft, Gil Bliss, Merry Bliss, Helen Peterle, and Brian McCormick.



First Wednesdays and Thursdays

Along the same lines for house care, there was concern in presenting the house as a clean, "work in progress". The first Wednesday of every month was created as Small Fixes". Volunteers can come on those days and help us in a variety of ways. If you know how to use a screw gun, paint, or garden- we need you! These small jobs will be accompanied by a board member. Hours will be 9am to 12pm.

Contact: Merry Bliss; www.membership@stanton-davishomestead.org, to sign up, and hear what we are doing.

"First Thursdays" will be the one cleaning day, for each month. Dusting, polishing and vacuuming will happen from 9am to 12pm. We will provide supplies. Contact: Merry Bliss membership@stanton-davishomestead.org
We are setting up the house for the coming season and could really use your help.

Next Phase of Restoration

We are working with our architect of record Robert Leach, on the final plans for the restoration of the exterior of the main house. These architectural plans will then pass to our builders of choice for a bids. Our relationship with Architectural Preservation Group, of East Greenwich RI, is good, and we would appreciate their continued expertise. The owner, Steve Tyson, recently was the recipient of an organ donor, and is in recovery and rehabilitation. We wish all the best for his rapid recovery and continued good health. In the meantime, our president, Brian McCormick is working with Steve Juers, our treasurer, to form a financial plan to fund this future project. We are all looking for your financial support, for this last push. More info on this will be forthcoming. Contact Brian McCormick; president@stanton-davishomestead.org, for more details.

Join Us This Summer and Fall

We start our programs in June, this year, and will follow with July, August, September and November. Be sure to sign up for our porcelain berry wreath, and our holiday green wreath and decoration workshops.

We are looking forward to our big fundraiser on August 23, "History and Sale". Arthur Liverant, and his partner, Kevin Tulumieri, of Nathan Liverant and Son of Colchester, CT, and Nancy Shaw, of NL Shaw and Co., of Mystic CT, will be joining us to shed some light on our favorite antique furniture, pottery, paintings and jewelry. Fee will be \$15 per item or three for \$40. We also will be offering a good

selection of restored furniture for sale- some of it antique. You can buy your tickets the day of, at the homestead.

Be sure to look over the 2025 program list! Visit us at www.stanton-davishomestead.org, for more information.

Arthur Liverant and Nancy Shaw

Arthur Liverant, is a third generation connoisseur of 17th and early 18th century American antiques. The business, Nathan Liverant and Son, was started 104 years ago by his grandfather Nathan at the same location in Colchester CT. It is housed in an early Baptist church set on Main St. Arthur's gregarious nature belies a passionate knowledge of history about American made antique furniture. His partner, Kevin Tulimieri joined him in 1998, and is a meticulous researcher and curator. Arthur's family knew John and Whit Davis and their families, for years, so his connection to the Homestead is a personal one. He is graciously donating his knowledge to help the Homestead on our August 23, (Sat) fundraiser.

Nancy Shaw opened her business on Main St in Mystic in 1980. If you visit her shop she will share her knowledge and passion about jewelry. She always carries so many interesting pieces, from estate to new ones from contemporary artisans. Plan to go and spend an hour and learn from her equally passionate staff. Your Christmas list is ready.

Have You Renewed ?

Historians are nerdy people. We know a lot about the past, and we have our specific niches. History is everything before, and many of us love the past of our American roots. At Stanton-Davis Homestead we have members who trace their lineage to Thomas Stanton or the original Davis family of Long Island. Many have worked on the Davis farm and remember Larry's dad, Whit, and his grandfather, John Lawrence. or maybe they follow the Freedom Trail, and know Venture Smith, or maybe they love the architecture. All are important reasons that create a bigger picture of the past. Our membership is spread far and wide across the US states. With your help, and our perennial volunteers, we continue to restore, and discover along the way.

Thank you to all who renewed your memberships and donated extra support for our efforts. If you would like to renew, donate or become a member, please visit us online:

www.stanton-davishomestead.org, to download our membership form.