

Stanton-Davis Homestead Museum Newsletter Fall 2022



Greetings!

The year has been a horse race. Our finish line, looks more like the starting gate for our two pet projects: the Cheese Room, and the “Phase 3” for Roof/ Structural on the main house.

Cheese Room News

We received a grant from the Lord Foundation for the sum of \$25,000, to help with the project. We requested \$5,000 for the Cheese Room, and the \$20,000 balance was requested for the Main Roof Project. In addition, our vice president, Brian McCormick, has applied for Stonington’s Capital Improvement Plan, (available for 501 c3’s), for the sum of \$23,000.

Gil has surveyed the room with a lot of photos, and measurements, to meet SHPO’s historical cataloguing criteria. Work was held off from starting, until we had final OK from the Town of Stonington’s Building Dept., which we got this past June. We also wanted members to at least have some “before” view, so we held off until the Stanton Society Tour was held, on 9/24/22. Staging is up as of last weekend-now, let the walls be taken down.

Main Roof/ Structure

The contract from APG (Architectural Preservation Group) was reviewed, sent back with a few corrections, and has been signed by all parties. After that, Steve Tyson, owner, will be sending down his setup-dumpster staging, etc, and start work! Brian McCormick, our Vice-President, is in the midst, of applying to the CT State Preservation Office for a grant of \$70,000, to cover the shortfall on increased material costs for this project. Covid didn’t do any favors for the building trade. This amount should bring costs closer to \$314,000, instead of the \$250,000 that we totaled in 2019. The cost for wood products, has been on a continual rise.



Put SDHM on the TAG!

Its that end of the year, when giving is a thing. Why not give a gift-for the future for the Homestead? Help us along, with any amount, you can share. Its time to think about supporting local institutions.

Stanton -Davis Homestead has history of two farming families, indigenous tribes, and slavery. We would be glad to receive your gift, either with a personal check, made to:

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

Or contact us through our web: www.stanton-davishomestead.org , to make a payment thru Pay Pal.

Please designate which project you would like to support. Thanks!

Program Chatter



House tours- We started a new format for house tours this past year. Our first was held in spring, at the end of May, (spring chores weekend!) We had low attendance. Our second Open House was held in July, with much better attendance.

Lawn extraordinaire- The grounds this year were impeccable, thanks to Christie Landscaping's efforts. Many thanks to Mike and his crew for their donated time and work. They helped us over a hard spot.

Yoga on the lawn- a great idea, but 576a Greenhaven isn't on the map, so low turnout. Special thanks go to instructor Chelsea Hauck, of Bluebell Yoga, for arranging her website, and offering classes.

State Archeologist- Sarah Sportman- On August 13, roughly 30 of us were enthralled with slides and talk at the Homestead. Dr Sportman went over similar time area digs in CT, and talked about what was found at the two previous digs she conducted, at SDHM. We appreciated her knowledge of pottery, bones, and stones.

Stanton Society Tour 9/24/22 A gorgeous day, with an attentive large crowd (40 members) listen to Gil Bliss (President) talk, in the Keeping Room, at SDHM. The Stanton group made their pilgrimage from points all over the country, California, Michigan Florida, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Rhode Island New York, and Connecticut, to name a few. They also visited local areas of Stanton interest.



Their roots to the house are through to the original Thomas Stanton, the builder of the first house, that sat in a smaller footprint, of the present day Homestead. Fond memories of Whit Davis's first open house, along with their own heritage, make this group like family. We appreciate their long-term commitment to our efforts.



Volunteers Needed! We were helped out, with moving by Andy and Brian. They also pitched in to clean. We're so Appreciative of those who can lend a hand. Our upcoming Cheese Room project has started, and we're still needing people who are willing to do a little physical wood working for several hours, a week., on short notice. Gil Bliss, president, will be overseeing and doing this job, on a purely volunteer basis. He has an extensive background in wood working, from working at two Maritime Museums-South St. Seaport in NYC, and Mystic Seaport Museum's Shipyard. He went on to run a successful building, and restoration business in the area, for the past 35yrs. Learn about Post and Beam construction, from a master builder. Contact : www.president@stanton-davishomestead.org

What in the World Is It? We found this item, that had been squirreled away in the attic. Its about 12" in hgt, 9" in diameter, and very wood like, with porous grain, that seems to be filled with a grey clay. The top is scooped out on purpose, to form a level bed. Does anyone have any ID, or ideas? Brian McCormick, our vice president, will be starting up a **WHAT'S IT ?** on our Mail Chimp email. If you'd like to get these short bulletins, he can be reached at: www.vicepresident@stanton-davishomestead.org





ATTIC TREASURES

We needed to clear out the attic-**TOTALLY!** In amongst Many wooden storage boxes-empty, (and full of bottles) was a beaten up pine washstand with one drawer. Bunched up in a ball, was this, and another cloth item, that served more as an apartment to generations of mice. After days of soaking, and gentle hand washing, this item revealed itself.

It is a stiff, cotton, pique cloth coat, with hand made crochet lace on cuffs, and edging the broad sailor's collar. The front was clasped with studs put through three, tiny buttonholes. They were not with the piece. It looks as if this was hand made with a sewing machine. I would say 19thc., and it was probably a toddler's summer coat. The other piece revealed a long cotton christening dress for an infant. The fabric is sheer, with tucking along its front. Its little cap sleeves and simple round collar are touched with handmade lace. The whole piece looks to be sewn by hand. It too, could be early 19th c.

If not pressed into our duty, to our builder, these items would never have come to light! We do not know who they belonged to, but they definitely, have a role, in the Davis family.

MEMBERSHIP 2023

We presently offer you new programs, more chances to visit, either with open houses, or private touring. We endeavour to learn, and share the homestead's architectural, and Davis family mysteries. Its time to renew your member ship!

Our Calendar year is January through to December. If you joined us as a member, at the end of September, you are paid up for 2023. We thank you for your support.

Joining is as simple as filing out the enclosed form, and mailing it in, with a personal check; or visiting at our website, and using Pay Pal.

www.stanton-davishomestead.org