
GENERAL JOHN STARK DAY: Held today, and always on the fourth Monday in April, Richard Wright portrayed the General. The Sons of the American Revolution gathered with townspeople at the statue of Caleb Stark, and there was a ceremony, complete with muskets being fired. Afterward, Stark descendant Laraine Allen hosted a tour and luncheon at her home, the Molly Stark House.

Laraine reported that Stark Park in Manchester was cleaned recently, and plantings and a bandstand have been added. The statue has been restored; having had splits in the horse, and the sword stolen twice. The gravesite will be restored, and there will be events at the park this summer. The early home of John Stark, also in Manchester, is where the Daughters of the American Revolution meet.

COBBLER SHOP: On May 7, 2013, the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance will present to Donna Dunn and the DHAC an Achievement Award, for the restoration of the cobbler shop. The volunteers’ work met standards set by the Office of the Secretary of the Interior. Other facets of the project, such as involvement by local businesses, and the educational possibilities also figured into the decision-making.

The official dedication of the cobbler shop will be held on Sunday, June 9, 2013, from twelve to four in the afternoon. Last phase restoration issues have been addressed, such as a re-building of the doorsill, and an additional coat of plaster has been applied; one which retains visibility of some of the horsehair donated by the owners of local horses. All buildings on the grounds of the Dunbarton Historical Society on Route 13 will be open for the occasion. There will be cobblers from Concord present for demonstrations. The restored hearse, driver, and “Spike” the horse will be on hand at one p.m.

A photograph which appears in Bue Noyes’ Where Settlers’ Feet Have Trod depicts the cobbler shop as it appeared on its original site in Dunbarton, in the eighteen hundreds. The cobbler, T. Sylvester Wilson, stands holding his baby, Stella. Currently, a former Dunbarton resident remembers an elderly Stella. This former resident, who is well versed in the history of the town, will travel from another state for dedication day.

DUNBARTON ROAST PORK DINNER: Saturday, May 4, 2013 is the date for the Dunbarton Historical Society’s fund-raising dinner, to be held at the Dunbarton Elementary School, 5:30-7:00 p.m. The profits from the dinner of roast pork with all the trimmings will be used toward the re-construction of an antique cape, which will utilize the timbers saved from the razed Flintlock Farm.

DUNBARTON ARTS ON THE COMMON: Taking place on Mothers Day weekend, May 11th and 12th, for the benefit of the Dunbarton Town Hall and Theatre Restoration Project, several events will highlight the festivities. Numerous tents will shelter the juried exhibition of arts and crafts. There will be live music and entertainment. On Saturday, there will be a Beer Garden, featuring craft beers, as well as bratwurst and burgers. Mothers Day will be celebrated on Sunday with a tea, accompanied by pastries. Food vendors will include the Dunbarton Congregational Church, the Dunbarton Garden Club, and local commercial shops and restaurants.

NOYES COLLECTION: Bud’s wooden map chest has been purchased from his family, and is at the town offices. Also, Donna has some vintage historic house signs from Bud’s basement.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 20, 2013, at 6:30 p.m., at the Dunbarton Town Offices. This is a week earlier than usual; to prepare for the opening of the cobbler shop.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Rolke
Chair and Secretary