



Stony Brook **CURRENTS**

Vol. XI, No. 3

The Newsletter of the Suffield Historical Society

September 2016

The mission of the Suffield Historical Society is to collect, preserve and stimulate interest in the history of Suffield and the region and to actively share it. The Society hopes to inspire a sense of community, as well as to provide an understanding and appreciation of Suffield's past.

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SUMMER EXHIBIT: Pease Family of Suffield

The current special exhibit at the King House Museum is a loan exhibition of material from the extended Pease family 1750 - 1960. Most of the material was from "Aldenheim" (480 North Main Street, Suffield) which was built for Dr. Howard Alden and his wife, Rhoda Williston, in 1794. Some of the material originated in the Joseph Pease house (1760). The material is loaned by Pamela Washburn Berry, daughter of Sarah Pease Washburn, and Barry N. Sisk, son-in-law of Sarah. The painting (1827) of Don Pease is loaned by Daniel Pease. Barry Sisk, a Suffield Historical Society trustee, is the guest curator.



Barry Sisk tells a King House Museum visitor about the Pease family of Suffield, who became prominent citizens for more than two centuries. Barry assembled a substantial exhibit of Pease family memorabilia, which is on display this summer.

That's Don Pease in the old portrait.

A wide variety of items comprise the exhibit: documents, books, clothes, photos, toys, porcelain, and furniture. Artifacts include the Alden family Bible, Joseph Pease's journal (1750-1794), a table

(c1800) and a child's chair (c1795) each made by William Pease, William Pease's account book, a 1774 speech by John Hancock, a Civil War kepi, playing cards (c1900), a silver tea set (c1890) belonging to Sarah Leonard Pease Fuller, and photos of Pease relatives to 2016.

Through many generations, the Pease family members were leaders in civic and business affairs:

- Joseph Pease was a town leader with Dr. Alexander King and Gideon Granger, Sr., during the American Revolutionary period. His daughter, Mindwell, married Gideon Granger, Jr., who became Thomas Jefferson's Postmaster General.
- Seth Pease, a son, was a mapmaker and surveyor for Connecticut land speculators in the late 18th century. He became President Jefferson's Surveyor General for a short time and then Assistant Postmaster General.
- Seth's brother, Oliver, was a town physician for 40 years and the Town Clerk for more than 35 years.
- Another brother, Royal, established the town of Suffield, Ohio.

- A third brother, Calvin, became the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court in the early 19th century.
- A grandson of Joseph Pease, Don (1797-1868), married Susan King Alden in 1842. At that time, "Aldenheim" came into the Pease family and remained in the family until about 1980.
- Don's daughter, Sarah Leonard, married Edward A. Fuller in 1862, and they moved into "Aldenheim" in 1871, where they lived until their deaths (his in 1921 and hers in 1924). Edward became a town and state leader and a philanthropist until he died. Sarah was a partner in his endeavors.
- Sarah's nephew, Howard Fuller Pease, whom they raised as their son, was a civic leader and a trustee of Suffield School (now Suffield Academy).
- In 1937, Howard's daughter, Sarah (Sally), married John Washburn, who was appointed fire chief in 1952. He served as chief and assistant chief for more than thirty years.
- Grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Sarah and John still reside in Suffield.

ASSEMBLED, FINALLY!

by Lester Smith, Curator

It was eight years ago that Jean and Paul Sutton generously donated a large Howe platform scale that had been built into the floor of the Fairfield tobacco warehouse, a close outbuilding of the Sutton's home on North Main Street. The scale was disassembled to be moved and was stored for a time in the King House Stable. After our barn was built seven years ago, the pieces were transferred there, and more recently Bob Sullivan volunteered to take on the task of removing rust from the scale's fluted, cast iron support columns and painting them. Your curator cleaned and painted some small pieces last summer, and Jim Reeves, who knows how to push a project forward, continued the work this spring. The scale is now complete, and it's beautiful! Come and get weighed; it will handle a ton or more.

Jim has added some good research to the scale project. The Howe Scale Company of Rutland, Vermont, is out of business, but its records are at the University of Vermont, so we may be able to learn when this scale was built, perhaps even to whom it was sold.

PHOTO: Jim Reeves drives one of the last screws to complete his assembly of the tobacco warehouse platform scale now on exhibit in the King House Barn.

SEEKING A VOLUNTEER FOR TWO TASKS

The Society is in need of a volunteer to correct two small exterior projects:

- Re-burying a stretch of perforated plastic drainage pipe that has come to the surface in front of the barn door. It was buried in crushed rock.
- Removing the flexible pipe that once carried the outflow from our previous sump pump. It passed through a cellar window, above ground under the porch, then under the gravel path and onto the south lawn.

Call Lester Smith at 860-471-1915 if you can help. Thank you.



HOLIDAYFEST

Boxes, Baskets, and Curious Containers

It may be a bit strange at summer's end to think about our annual Holidayfest week-end at the end of autumn, December 3 & 4. The sociability and refreshments are always great, but we need your help with an important aspect of this enjoyable gathering.

This year we're calling the special Holidayfest exhibit "Boxes, Baskets, and Curious Containers." We're asking you and all our friends to think about what you can lend for a few days to make this display interesting, amusing, and perhaps even eye-opening. If you have something you're willing to share, please call Lester Smith at 860-471-1915.

ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL



George, the neighbor's cat, seemed to enjoy our evening along with a large crowd at the Society's Ice Cream Social on July 12. Friendly socializing, picnic suppers, Mona's great ice cream and toppings, plus Paul Kulas's old-time music all made for an excellent occasion.

THREE ORIGINAL PROPRIETORS

Isaac Cakebread, Daniel Canada & Simon Gowin, who barely left a mark *by Ed Chase*

Three early Suffield proprietors have virtually disappeared from Town records, events, or even place names. All three received grants on the western bank of the Connecticut River in the late 1670s, after the abandonment of Suffield during King Philip's War.

The first was Isaac Cakebread, who was granted 50 acres west from the riverbank and north of what is now called Thompsonville Road. It crossed the ancient Indian path as it approached the river, and its northern boundary was a grant given to William Allen. Isaac's duty at the Springfield garrison during King Philip's War helped to save that settlement from the abandonment that was Suffield's fate. He settled in Springfield via Weymouth, Massachusetts. He received his Suffield grant in 1677 as proprietors moved back into the town they had abandoned in 1675. The following year, he married Hepzibah Jones of Hartford and settled in Suffield. A son Issac and a daughter Rebeckah were born to the couple while they lived here. Records exist of his voting as a freeman at our first Town Meeting on March 9, 1682. However, records also show that by the time of his death in 1688, Isaac and his family were living on Elm Street in Hartford. He is buried in the Ancient Hartford Burial Ground and noted as one of the Early Hartford Families.

Our second proprietor also received 50 acres on the west bank of the Connecticut River. Daniel Canada's lot was in the vicinity of the Suffield Ferry. It ran west on the northern boundary of John Pengilly's lot. Daniel is recorded as serving under Capt. Mosely in 1675 and Capt. Henschman in 1676 during King Philip's War. He received his Suffield grant in 1679. However, it appears he never settled on his grant. While he is mentioned in John Pynchon's book, his name never appears in Suffield birth, death or marriage records. Eventually his property rights were owned by Abraham Burbank, son of John Burbank (as in Burbank Avenue).

The final proprietor was named Simon Gowin. He, like the other two, received a grant on the western bank of the river, but his was a 60-acre lot that was granted in 1679. It was located just north of Daniel Canada's property and included the mouth of Deep Brook. Simon was one of 18 soldiers under Captain Samuel Appleton wounded at the Narragansett Fort Fight on December 19, 1675. He survived the war, but no records show his ever settling on his grant in Suffield. He died in Springfield in 1693, and, in 1697, the property was given to Ebenezer Burbank, another son of John Burbank. Today the homestead of Arthur M. Sikes, Jr., our Society's vice president, is within the grant initially given to Simon Gowin.

Reference: *The Documentary History of Suffield, 1670-1749*, by H. S. Sheldon, 1879; *Soldiers in King Philip's War*, George M. Bodge, 1906; *Papers of John Pynchon: Account Book Selections*, Brindbaugh and Tomlinson, 1985; *Stony Brook Currents*, Vol. VI No. 3, and Vol IX, No. 4; Internet Sources.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUFFIELD ON THE GREEN

Saturday, September 10 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday, September 11 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Town Green

Join us at our booth. See the line-up of programs for 2016-17 ... and let us say hello at summer's end.

COLLECTIBLE CAR SHOW

Sunday, September 11

King House Grounds 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Free admission. No fee to exhibit car. Rain cancels.

NEVER LOOK AT GRAVESTONES

THE SAME WAY AGAIN

Wednesday, September 28

Senior Center 7:00 p.m.

Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, CT Gravestones Exec. Director
All is not as it appears ... who carved these old stones, where do they come from, what does their symbolism mean, and how does it change over time?

ROBERT FROST IN STORY AND SONG

Wednesday, October 19

Senior Center 7:00 p.m.

Walt Woodward & Company

Connecticut State Historian, Walter Woodward, Ph.D., will lead a delightful program to bring the story and poetry of Robert Frost alive in the 21st century.

HALLOWEEN CANDY DISTRIBUTION

Monday, October 31

King House Dusk to 7:30 p.m.

Come in costume and join the fun!

TAUGHT TO THE TUNE OF THE HICKORY STICK

Wednesday, November 16

Senior Center 7:00 p.m.

Dennis D. Picard

Dennis will bring back memories for many of our seniors and open the eyes of our youngsters as he contrasts the challenges, benefits and adventures of learning in the old one-room school houses with today's learning experiences.

King House Museum
232 South Main Street
Open to the Public, Free
Wednesdays and Saturdays
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
May through September
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