



The Denison Homestead Summer 2011

SUMMER IS HERE!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Summer is here and the Denison Homestead is already buzzing with activity. It is also time to renew your membership in the Denison Society. Your continued support is very much valued and appreciated. The Society was founded in August 1930 for the purpose of preserving the Denison Homestead and the legacy of the Denison family. We thank each and every one of our members who have contributed and have been part of the Society for almost 81 years. Instead of the usual renewal letter, we have decided to provide you with a mini newsletter so you know what is happening here at the Homestead.

DENISON FARM MARKET

The 2011 Denison Farm Market opened on June 5 with eighteen vendors signed up to sell organic fruits, vegetables, eggs, meats and other specialty items. Marketgoers can purchase a special Farm Market Pin for \$10 which entitles them to weekly specials from vendors throughout the season.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG

For three days, Dr. Kevin McBride, UCONN Anthropology professor, several researchers from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum, and UCONN archaeology field school students descended on the Homestead to conduct a preliminary archaeological dig. As mentioned in the spring newsletter, the goal was to locate evidence of Captain George Denison's palisade from the mid 1600's. No evidence of the palisade was found, but they did find a variety of other artifacts from various time periods. Items will be cleaned up, identified, and cataloged before they are returned to the Homestead for a future exhibit.

OPEN HOUSE DAY

Once again, the Homestead participated in Connecticut Open House Day on June 11. Over 125 visitors toured Pequotsepos Manor on a cloudy Saturday. Although rain was in the forecast, showers did not arrive until the doors were locked and everyone headed home. Staff and volunteers were dressed in period clothing representing their assigned room. Visitors were offered refreshments before their tours of the house. Both adults and children tried writing with quill pens and also assisted Dr. McBride and his group of archaeologists outside on the dig.



Aidan Evenski portraying Phebe Denison in the Victorian Chamber on Open House Day.

GRANTS

A matching grant for \$14,500 has been submitted to the 1772 Foundation for window and foundation restoration of the manor house. We should know by August if our application has been accepted. The Homestead also received a \$100 grant from the Mystic Woman's Club to use in the temporary exhibit room of the house. If you are aware of grants that might benefit the Homestead, please feel free to email this information to the office at: membership@denisonsociety.org.

DONATIONS

This spring, a portrait of John Ledyard Denison was donated by the Central Baptist Church in Norwich, Connecticut. Both John Ledyard and his brother, Frederick, were ministers of the church. We will have more about the brothers and the portrait, along with a complete list of other donors and donated items, in the upcoming fall newsletter.

GARDENS

Gardens around the Homestead are starting to come alive with color. Thanks to Linda Burdick, Louisa Broadbent, and Anne Collier for many hours of work caring for these gardens. Also, thanks to Craig Floyd, who has spent endless hours clearing brush so archaeologists would have access for the dig.



Annie Collier removing weeds and leaves from flower gardens!



COLLEGE INTERNS

Two interns from Eastern Connecticut State University are helping out at the Homestead this summer. Lauryn Bonanno and Joshua Harris are both Art History majors. Lauryn assisted with Open House Day tours and a variety of other tasks throughout the museum. Josh repainted the museum sign and is assisting at the Farm Market. Both interns are required to complete 120 hours over the summer. So far, they have been a tremendous help.



Frederick Douglass: Pathway from Slavery to Freedom

The film "Frederick Douglass: Pathway from Slavery to Freedom" won an Emmy at the 34th Annual National Association of Television Arts and Sciences, Boston/New England Chapter Awards. The production company used Pequotsepos Manor along with the barn and Vogel Cottage as settings for several scenes in the film. To learn more about "Pathway from Slavery to Freedom" go to:

www.youngamericanheroes.com

Denison Day *September 10, 2011*

This year, we are holding **Denison Day** on **Saturday, September 10, 2011**. Why not make it a weekend and take in some of the other activities in the area like the "Taste of Mystic" or the Denison Farm Market. Please **RSVP by August 20**, so we know how much food to order. A reservation form is included with this newsletter. If you have any questions, please call the office at **(860) 536-9248**.