



The Greater Dover Historical Society, Inc



June 2007

ATTENTION:

July 19 — Regular member's meeting and picnic, 5:30 pm @ Lehr Park. Please call Norma Botterbusch @ 292-7894 or 292-3241 by July 14 if you plan to attend. We will serve Jack Wynn's broasted chicken & potatoes. Bring a covered dish or dessert. Join us for an enjoyable evening!

Regular Meeting Dates

August 16 — 7 pm

Sept. 20 — 7 pm

October 18 — 7 pm

Nov. 15 — 7 pm

All meetings are being held at Dover UCC on W. Canal Street, Dover until further notice. Please come and show your support for preserving our Dover history!

BLACKSMITH SHOP OPEN HOUSE, APRIL 29, 2007

By June Kinsey

The day dawned bright and sunny, and windy. The volunteers came early to set up for the event which started at 2pm. A big tent was erected in the woods by the blacksmith shop, and due to the wind, tarps were added to the sides of the tent, so as to shelter our guests from the wind. Hay bales wrapped in burlap were used for seating under the tent, and food tables, covered with burlap tablecloths, were laden with artistically arranged refreshments. Punch bowls were filled with libations. Flower arrangements adorned the tables. What a perfect setting to showcase the rebuilt blacksmith shop.

Ted Ziegler, our blacksmith, was in the shop, demonstrating his craft, where his audience sat on wooden benches and/or hay bales. Ted shared his passion for 'smithing' with everyone, and answered many questions that were fielded by Lisa Byerts. Robert Byerts was in charge of the forge, and was kept busy for hours making sure that the fire remained hot for Ted and his son, Ted Jr., who is also a blacksmith.

Some of the society's artifacts were on display under the tent —a jiffy ice cream freezer, a glass butter churn, a wooden butter bowl and paddle, a kerosene lamp, and a large wooden butter churn. There were also items on display that came from homes of some of the GDHS members—a flat iron, a sad iron, an oil lamp, antique vases, and milk cans.

There were a total of 73 people in attendance, 51 members, with 3 guests, and 19 craftsmen/donors and their guests.

We wish to thank everyone who attended. I hope you enjoyed the day as much as we, the committee, enjoyed hosting you at the event.

The committee:

Doris Burger
Melanie Green
Lucia Hrinjak
June Kinsey - Committee Chair
Lori Koch
Kay Stitley



Adopt a Highway Volunteers Get Noticed

Saturday, June 23, 8:00 a.m.

Eleven GDHS members, including two new event participants, gathered at the GDS Controls parking lot to don their orange safety vests and gloves, supply themselves with bottled water and plastic garbage bags and receive instructions. Within minutes two parties set out along Rt. 74, one group heading north towards Sky Top Trail and the other moving south towards the Dover Borough line.

Both parties completed the litter pickup in a record two hours, cutting in half the time that was required for the first pickup of the year in March. Credit is due to the very thorough job conducted in that first spring pickup. In addition, an abundance of poison ivy and raspberry bushes prevented the volunteers from straying too far from a narrow path along the assigned route. Volunteers collected a total of twelve bags of trash.

There are many rewards for this service to the community provided by members of the Greater Dover Historical Society. For the participants, it is the recognition by others of a job well done that is particularly meaningful. Several passersby gave the volunteers the "thumbs up" and yelled "Thanks!" One admirer asked about the group and how he could help. Yet another also inquired as to our affiliation and thanked us for our service. Word about the Greater Dover Historical Society is spreading.

Join the next Adopt a Highway pickup scheduled for Saturday, August 18. Contact Lucia Hrinayak at 308-2158 or loosh45@comcast.net or sign up at the society's July picnic.

LOTTERY TICKET FUNDRAISER UPDATE

By June Kinsey

Society members sold a total of 482 tickets. There were 23 winning tickets for the two month period of January and February 2007. Thirteen of the winners were GDHS members, and ten were non-members. There were three repeat winners. Congratulations to all of the winners!

Harry and Madelyn Shermeyer, the top sellers, raised \$360.00. Jeffrey and Lori Koch sold 36 tickets, and Gayle Heagy sold 23.

Thanks to all the members who participated in the fundraiser. After expenses, the society's profit was \$16.96.88.

ITEMS FOR SALE

By Joyce Law

The society had a great response from its sale of items from the Blacksmith Shop and other fund raising items during the dedication of the Blacksmith Shop and Alda Ketterman Park on June 2, 2007.

We had 3 tables set up showing our wares of a candle holder, cross, door stop, heart hook, different sizes of S hooks, paper towel holder and a lawn cup holder and many more items from the Blacksmith Shop. We also had garbage bags, T-Shirts, picture frames, and replicas of the Blacksmith Shop for sale.

Any one interested in purchasing these items may contact Norma or Ron Botterbusch at 2 S. Main St., Dover or Joyce Law at 292-6293. At the present time some of these items are sold out and must be ordered.

**WHEN A TREE ISN'T A TREE:
THOUGHTS ON *THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH*
By Jo Ott**

The Society volunteers performed a remarkable feat in the reconstruction of the old Dover blacksmith shop. Each and every member of the Society can be very proud of this accomplishment.

It is only fitting that the grounds be adorned with a chestnut tree, just like the blacksmith shop in the very famous poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Through the efforts of many members, a fine specimen is now planted there.

As I listened to the three young ladies read the lines "under a spreading chestnut tree" at the dedication ceremonies on June 2nd, I couldn't help but remember the fifth grade when I was required to memorize Longfellow's *The Village Blacksmith*, and think of its real meaning and how it reaches into all our lives.

The poem, you see, isn't about a tree at all, or even a blacksmith shop and its smithy.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow passed daily the village blacksmith shop, shaded by the canopy of a spreading chestnut tree, and saw the smithy laboring inside the shop as the epitome of America's strengths and values. Written in the 19th century, this poem symbolizes the plight of the working man as America moved from its agrarian society to an industrialized one, from the farm to the factory.

America's village blacksmith in earlier times was as significant as today's local garage or service station. The smithy made and repaired wagon wheels and a variety of horse and wagon equipment; shod the horses, forged the plows and other farming implements. Without the smithy there would have been no hinges, nails, hooks or common household items. The poem reflects the arduous work he did.

The village blacksmith shop was a mainstay of many small and larger towns and Longfellow sees the smithy as an important part of community life and the image of hard work, forging out a living that is required of us all. He includes in the poem the children who come by to visit and like to catch the sparks, and of the smithy's "night's repose" after a day of toiling—the reward for "rejoicing" in one's work.

The smithy reminds us all of our own spirituality and the sorrow in our own lives when listening to his own daughter's voice in the church choir and thinking it similar to that of his own mother lying in her grave.

The chestnut tree too, struggling to spread wider and wider with age, is a symbol of our own lives growing with our own everyday struggles and seeking our own rewards. Both the majestic chestnut tree and the "mighty man...with large and sinewy hands" are images of the strength of our human existence and what is required of us to maintain it.

As historical society members, many of you reaped your great rewards prior to June 2nd, after the last brick was laid, the last board was whitewashed, the last flower and shrub planted, and after all your other hard work was finally finished. You had cause to celebrate and I was pleased to have been present to join in that celebration.

(Longfellow's first wife died during a miscarriage and his second wife burned to death from candle wax catching her clothing on fire. He was burned attempting to put out the flames and grew his beard to hide the scars.)

Note: Jo wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Dr. Lawrence J. Clipper, retired English Department chairman at Indiana University – South Bend, in writing this article.

**Blacksmith Shop Dedication
June 2, 2007
Submitted by Kay Stitley**

June 2, 2007 was a very important day in the history of the Greater Dover Historical Society. The community and the society celebrated the official dedication of Alda Ketterman Park and the blacksmith shop. Many dignitaries attended as well as our local Boy Scout troops. The Dominants jazz band from Dover High School along with vocalists Erin Lehman and Jessica Aruda provided music and song.

Following the official dedication, Ted Ziegler, our blacksmith, demonstrated the craft of blacksmithing for those in attendance. Local food vendors were on hand. Games, a puppet show, and a balloon artist entertained the younger crowd and the local band Crossroads provided music during the afternoon for people of all ages.

The members of the society displayed a great sense of pride and joy that afternoon, for this project was the society's first major undertaking, requiring many volunteer hours from start to finish. It is our hope this blacksmith shop will continue to teach future generations the craft of blacksmithing.



Above and opposite page are several photos from our Blacksmith Shop open house in April and dedication ceremony on June 2, including a great shot of our Archivist Emeritus, Dr. Charles Drawbaugh, enjoying the day!



GREATER DOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2 South Main Street
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Website: www.gdhspa.org
Email: doverhistory@gdhspa.org

PRESERVING OUR HISTORY FOR OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Welcome to our New Members

John G. Bergdoll
Matthew Brenner
Melinda Brenner
William Coleman
Christianna Coleman
Fred Kimmel
Flo Miller
Shannon Smith

If any member has a new or current email address, please forward that information to the GDHS secretary so our records can be updated. This information is kept confidential and only used for GDHS contact purposes. Please email your information to jkoch8@verizon.net. Thank you!