

DUNBARTON HISTORICAL AWARENESS COMMITTEE

September 25, 2023, 6:00 pm

Members Present: Donna Dunn, Gail Martel, Fred Mullen, Lee Mullen, Dave Nault (BOS Liaison),
Bill Nichols, Paula Mangini (by phone)

Members out of town/absent: Linda Nickerson (not required), Bill Zeller

Minutes: Fred motioned to approve the minutes of the 6/26/23 meeting. Bill N. seconded, unanimous.

DHAC Financials: Gail reported a balance of \$5,490.66 based on our last statement dated 8/31/23. Fred made a motion to accept, Bill N. seconded, unanimous.

School Sites Sign Project: Still no response to Stinson School sign from site owners; Dave Nault will attempt contact. The current owner of the Burnham School has been approached in person and by email with no response. No further action planned at present on this or a Page School sign at the first (not fully established) site.

East Dunbarton Post Office(s): The new sign is on the house!

North Dunbarton Post Office: Paula's research shows misinformation on the State of NH Historical Marker at the Molly Stark House in that it states it was the first PO in Dunbarton when in fact that was at the Center in 1817. It was only the first PO in North Dunbarton. Paula will try and obtain a copy of the original application and see what was used as a source document. If there is no cost to replace the sign, which Laraine feels has more incorrect info, we can investigate it. If there's a cost we probably won't pursue it. We'll obtain input from Laraine Allen, owner of the site.

Scipio Black Heritage Trail Marker: The boulder was placed this past summer by Justin & David Nault, Jordan Huertas and Fred Mullen. Jeff Crosby, Woody Bowne and Donna also took part in the process. It looks great. Donna will check this week and put down grass seed/Penn mulch if needed. Donna will pursue a will for Scipio Page. Fred, Lee and Donna updated everyone on their BHTNH Black Soldiers walk in Portsmouth this past weekend. Donna reported on her study of Dr. Isaac Stearns early 1800s medical journals to date. New names: Simeon Colby, ? Colby, Sidney/Sibley (obstetrics), Simon Clark, Anthony Clark, Lewey (male), Rhoda (Obstetrics/birth at Caleb Mill's house as a pauper in his care), Cesar Porter died 11/9/1832, over 80 (info shared with the Cemetery Trustees). Donna has an appointment at the NHHS to review pauper records for Dunbarton, Weare & Bow (the towns Dr. Stearns covered) possibly Hopkinton. There may be more names.

New Black names from the 1850 Census: Peter Seavey (in home of Edward Leach) possibly Gorge referred to in David Tenney's journal based on a search site on the BHTNH website. The Leach house and Capt. Page house were very close to each other. Iru Colby is listed as Mulatto?

DHS Archives: Black history researcher Jane Wescomb will be back this week to go over new material lent to us by the DHS; Samuel Burnham store ledgers.

Elijah L. Harris' Journal: Leland Mills called; he has the years 1847-1854. We hope to receive copies/scans!

Assist Cemetery Trustees: A funeral home in Concord found 70 cremains that were never interred. One is Gustave Gruhn of Dunbarton who died in 1952. We shared genealogical information and determined he lived at The Archibald Stark Jr. House at 30 Stark Lane. His ashes will be spread at Page's Cemetery Monday 10/2 at 1 pm. All are welcome.

Assist Resident with Native American history in Dunbarton: Bill N. mentioned an Indian Rock that was used for baking bread, Dave Nault believes it's on his land. Also the grinding stone in NW Dunbarton. Donna will see if George Holt has photos to share.

Adjourn/Next Meeting: Bill N. made a motion to adjourn at 7:04, Fred seconded. Next meeting will be Monday, October 23, 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Dunn, Chair & Secretary