



REBECCA NURSE HOMESTEAD PRESERVATION SOCIETY NEWSLETTER Spring & Summer 2020

Revolutionary War Reenactment: A Spring Tactical



This event will be
open to the public
May 16th

10:00am-4:00pm

Admission:

Adults: \$9.00

Seniors: \$7.00

Children (6-16) \$6.00

RNH Members: FREE



The Danvers Alarm List Company and His Majesty's 10th Regiment of foot are working together to host a "Spring Tactical at the Rebecca Nurse Homestead". This one day event will have three tactical demonstrations put on by reenacting organizations from all over New England. There will be colonial life demonstrations throughout the day in the house, a performance by the 4-H Fife & Drum Core, and a couple of lectures. Alex Cain, owner the "Historical Nerderly" blog and "Untapped History Tours" will be doing a lecture called "Heads of Families and Men of Substance: the Rise of the Minute Men in the Merrimack Valley, Essex County Massachusetts", and the second lecture by Russ Davis, will focus on the role of Pioneers in the British Army, and what soldiers were required to carry.

Please note that the usual tours of the Nurse Homestead will not be running on this day, but the house will be open for visitation with live demonstrations of colonial life.

Other upcoming events

- ◆ April 20th: Patriots Day March with DALCO
- ◆ June 13th: 1920's Lawn Party: 9th Annual Gala Day

Visit our website or Facebook for the schedule or latest updates about these events.

President's Notes by: Kathryn Rutkowski

A SIGN of Spring...

I am pleased to report that Rebecca Nurse Homestead will welcome visitors with a new sign on Pine Street, crafted by the same person who did our original sign; Robert Leonard of Ould Colony Artisans. The new sign will be installed in the spring after some work on the frame, and will replace the faded and weathered sign that has served us over 20 years! We appreciate the generous contribution of DALCO member Dave Butler and his wife Brenda that made the badly needed sign replacement possible. We also have so many other exciting things happening this spring and summer, firstly our Revolutionary War event in May is going to be a blast! Our packed schedule will feature 3 tactical demonstrations (battle scenarios) as well as colonial life demonstrations like hearth cooking and wool spinning. Also coming up this summer in June is our ever popular Gala Day event, and before you ask...YES we will be hand making our famous Strawberry Shortcakes again this year. Since our theme this year is the 1920s we have lined up some performances by The Commonwealth Vintage Dancers showcasing popular dance styles from the Roaring 20's! Come picnic and spend the day playing games, listening to music or drop in for a bit it is always a fun event for all ages, and how can you refuse when we roll back our admission prices to the original 25 cents. Have a great spring and summer!

Skeletons in the Closet

"Skeletons in the Closet: Memorialization of George Jacobs, Sr., and Rebecca Nurse after the 1692 Witch Trials" was the topic of a lecture given by DALCO board member Dan Gagnon on October 19th in the Meeting House. Rebecca Nurse was the first, and for almost a century, the only witchcraft victim honored with a memorial, here in the family cemetery. Jacobs' known grave, also in Danvers,

was completely ignored, and worse. Gagnon also recently presented his research to the Peabody Historical Society to a standing-room only crowd of 140 that included descendants of both the Nurse and Jacobs families. Gagnon's Nurse and Jacobs research was also recently published in the *The New England Journal of History*.



Towne Family Reunion

The Towne Family Association is comprised of descendants of William Towne and Joanna Blessing, and their children; Rebecca, John, Susan, Edmund, Jacob, Mary, Joseph, and Sarah. Rebecca (Nurse), Mary (Esty) and Sarah (Cloyse) were victims of the witchcraft hysteria of 1692. The Towne Family Association will be holding their 40th Annual Meeting and Reunion in the Danvers area in September, the weekend's program will include a visit to the Rebecca Nurse Homestead. This year 2020 marks the 400th wedding anniversary of William Towne and Joanna Blessing, at St. Nicholas Church in Yarmouth England, on April 25th 1620.

For more information about the Towne Family

Association check out their website

<https://townefolk.com/>



Above: Towne Family Association Member Natalie Gates designed this commemorative coin to mark this milestone and the marriage of William and Joanna.

Photo of the Year



A picture of Danvers Alarm List Lt. Bill Clemens was selected as one of the “Pictures of the Year” for 2019 by the Salem News. The photo is a close-up of Clemens firing his musket during the Patriots' Day salute at the Lexington Monument in Peabody. Be on the lookout for members of DALCO this Patriots Day April 20th as we continue our

long standing tradition of visiting the graves of the Danvers men who lost their lives on April 19th 1775. We do a short ceremony with a firing salute at the various locations.

Visit DALCO's Facebook page for the schedule, and locations.