



**Dunham Tavern Museum
May/June 2014
Newsletter**

Back Home at Last: Loretta Jane Dunham's Sampler

Calendar of Events

- Sampler Event—
May 8, 2014
- Hearty Hearth:
Branching Out—
May 25, 2014
- DTM Annual
Meeting—
June 8, 2014

We recently acquired the Loretta Jane Dunham sampler which will be exhibited next to the Caroline Sarah Dunham sampler. On May 8, 2014 members and guests celebrated Loretta's 191st birthday with the unveiling of the sisters' samplers, home once again.

Knowledge of Loretta's sampler came through a phone conversation Dunham Tavern Board President, Barbara Peterson, had in the late 1990's with a renowned collector. In 2003, the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio and Sue Stuebaker, author of "Ohio is My Dwelling Place," presented an

exhibit of schoolgirl embroideries 1800-1850. While arrangements were made for the Caroline sampler to be part of the exhibit, Mrs. Peterson informed Mrs. Stuebaker of the Loretta sampler, and the two samplers were exhibited side by side. In October 2013, information surfaced regarding the availability of the Loretta sampler, and by November, Dunham Tavern Museum welcomed the piece into its collection. The C. Walder Parke Family Foundation happily funded the acquisition, conservation, and framing of the Loretta Dunham sampler and that of her sister's.



Members and the public are invited to view the samplers and the entire museum on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11, 2014.

March 16 Member Event: Cleveland Calamities: The History of Storm, Fire and Pestilence

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On Sunday, March 16, Cleveland author Alan F. Dutka, regaled us with stories about Cleveland as he explored intriguing famous and lesser-known Forest City disasters found in his book, *Cleveland Calamities . . . History of Storm, Fire and Pestilence*.

The events helping to create these memories are described

in his book, along with a fascinating history of Cleveland during some very extreme times.

The Firefighting Sagas, dating back to 1811, will brought a connection to the perils the Dunham Family might have encountered. The author's stories, in addition to entertaining us, enhanced a few of our own memories.

A reception followed the presentation, giving guests a chance to meet the author and visit with Dunham members and guests.

Thanks to Harriet Logan of Loganberry Books for making his book available. The yummy Irish cream and green-themed food was enjoyed by all.

The Life of Loretta Jane Dunham

Samplers: A Work of Sewing Skills, Imagination and Artistic Flair

Samplers were a common practice for young girls as part of their education, and the sisters' samplers demonstrate their needlework ability.

The museum received Caroline's sampler in 1966 from a Dunham descendent Frank E. Wheeler of Missouri. This is the first time in 179 years that the samplers will be together in the Dunham household since originally created in 1835.

This amazing acquisition adds to the legacy of the Dunham Family and the rich history of Dunham Tavern Museum.

A rite of late childhood for girls at that time was the production of a sampler demonstrating their sewing skills as well as their imagination and artistic flair.

Loretta Jane Dunham, the second child and first daughter of Rufus and Jane Pratt Dunham was born in Cleveland Township on May 8, 1823. Her childhood included such diversions as berry picking in the marsh across the road from her home. By 1829 there were public schools in the township where she would have received a sound foundation in the "3R's." A rite of late childhood for a girl at that time was the production of a sampler demonstrating her sewing skills as well as her imagination and artistic flair. Loretta and her younger sister Caroline completed theirs together in 1835. (The Museum has had Caroline's sampler since the early 1960's. We have just acquired Loretta's from a collector. It is going on exhibit on May 11, 2014.)

On December 8, 1842, Loretta was married to Robert Oliver Pier, a son of Dr. Ira W. and Sarah Bradford Pier. On his mother's side, Robert was a Mayflower descendant. Robert was a merchant who tried his hand at selling a variety of things — dry goods, etc. — before finally settling on coal. He established his place of business on the corner of Willson

Avenue (now E. 55th St.) and Euclid.

In the mid-1850's, Robert and Loretta built a new home for themselves at what today would be the corner of Euclid and E. 65th Street (known as Dorchester from 1891-1906) Jan Cigliano, in her *Showplace of America: Euclid Avenue 1850-1910*, describes the home as a "Tuscan Villa" p.68). The architect is unknown. A woodcut of the home was published in the 1874 *Atlas of Cuyahoga County*. We have a reproduction of that image on display at the Museum.

Robert and Loretta had four daughters: Frances (1843), Josephine (1845), Clara Amelia (1849) and Mary (1856). In 1863, a series of tragic deaths befell the Pier household. In the summer of 1863 both Clara Amelia and Mary died of diphtheria, a common childhood disease of the time. Following them to the grave in November was their father Robert — perhaps overwhelmed by grief at the loss of his children and worry over business difficulties.

On a happier note, on October 25, 1866, Frances Pier marries Henry Sprague.

The young couple moved to Fond du Lac Wisconsin where one of Frances' great uncles, Calvin Pier, had established himself. On March 19, 1867, Josephine Pier married Charles Denzer, a Civil War veteran. Charles was a traveling salesman. The young couple moved in with Loretta at her Euclid Avenue home.

Eventually the Denzers moved out and Loretta followed suit, electing to live in less elaborate accommodations while still retaining ownership of her Euclid Avenue home and land. At the end of her life, Loretta was living at 658 Cedar St. with her grandson Harry Sprague. (Frances Pier Sprague had died in 1879 and Henry Sprague had sent the children back to Cleveland to live with relatives.)

Loretta Jane Pier died of pneumonia on May 10, 1891, just two days after her 68th birthday. She is buried in the Pier plot in Woodland Cemetery.

Researched and written by
Contributing Editor Mary
Loud

Sunday, June 8, 2014 Annual Meeting

Our regulations require us to hold an annual meeting on the second Sunday of June of each year. The purpose of the meeting is electing Trustees and transacting other business.

This year's meeting will follow our usual practice of updating you on this year's activities and what we will be focusing on next year.

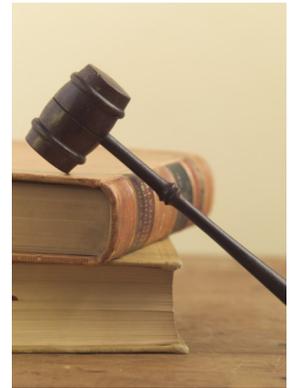
Highlights from 2013-14 will include:

- Strategic Plan Update
- Status reports on our capital and sustaining fund campaigns
- Financial Reports
- Improvements and changes to the museum and grounds
- Friends we've said goodbye to this year.

Once the business portion is finished, we'll have a chance to catch up with each other at a reception.

Keep an eye on your mail for more information about the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at 2pm on Sunday, June 8.



Behind the Scenes

- **Hough Health Impact Assessment:** Will hold its kick-off meeting in the Dunham Tavern Museum Barn. We are delighted to provide space for this most important neighborhood activity. For more information, check out: <http://healthyhough.wordpress.com/2014/04/14/stakeholder-kickoff-meeting/>
- **Key Bank “Making a Difference” Day:** Key Bank employees will once again be helping Chris Tuttle, Chair of the Gardens and Grounds Committee, with the daunting task of cleaning up after a v-e-r-y cold and harsh Cleveland winter. They will be arriving about 1pm on Wednesday, May 14. *If you have some time, we are asking members to help with managing the activities. Please call 216-431-1060 or dunhamtavern@sbcglobal.net to volunteer.*
- **Children’s Education Session: Branching Out—Sunday, May 25, 2014, 1-4pm.** This is the last session in the series. The lesson emphasizes the importance of trees. Themed craft (tree planting in pots to take home) and snack. Storytelling. Free and open to the public.
- **Midtown Cleveland Spring Beautification Day—Saturday, May 3, 2014:** On Saturday, May 3, 2014 from 9am-12pm: MidTown Cleveland, Inc. sponsored its annual Spring Beautification Day. With the aid of volunteers from the community, they enhanced MidTown’s aesthetic appearance by cleaning up the area and planting gardens in preparation for the Spring and Summer months.

**Dunham Tavern
Museum Annual
Meeting
Sunday, June 8, 2014
2 pm—In the barn
Light refreshments
afterwards**

6709 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44103

Phone: 216-431-1060
E-mail: dunhamtavern@sbcglobal.net
Web Address: www.dunhamtavern.org



Membership Renewals

Individual

Beatrice Cook
Linda Harper
Mary Horner
Betsy Merriman
Cynthia Reece
Nancy Sharp
Carol Vidoli
Beverly Wamelink

Family

Tim and Chris Collins
Marjorie and Lewis Fow
Thomas and Brenda Eakin
Samantha Fryberger
Warren and Annmarie Heston
Robert Jenkins
Raymond and Sandra Koren
James Wamelink
Rodney and Kathleen Wiggins

Plus

Diane Demko
Michael and Ruth Swetland Eppig
North Union Farmers Market
Margaret Ransohoff
Lorraine Szabo
Garrit Wamelink

Corporate Affiliate

Russell and Doris Warren