



# THE HOMESTEAD COURIER

FALL 2004

A Newsletter of the Fairbanks Family in America, Inc. Est. 1903

## YOUNG COUSINS MAKE EVERYONE SMILE AT 102<sup>ND</sup> FAIRBANKS FAMILY REUNION

A rousing production of "The Golden Goose" by young cousins capped a day of excitement for all who attended the 102<sup>nd</sup> Fairbanks family reunion. Rags the Clown made young and old laugh. Cousins enjoyed watching members of the Dedham Art Association paint watercolors of the old homestead, then bid for them in the silent auction, a fun and fundraising effort that benefited both organizations. Thanks to the generosity of our next-door neighbors, everyone sat at tables in air-conditioned comfort at the American Legion Post while enjoying a tasty homemade lunch prepared by board member Steve Gutro and friends. Dessert was make-it-yourself sundaes on the lawn provided by Dottie Graham and her daughter Sian Blackwell.

Double prizes were awarded for Furthest Traveler: one to Betty Matthews of Arkansas and one to Sheryl Cotter of Minnesota. The prize for Oldest Female Attendee went to Ruth Jencks, 99, of Rhode Island. Marshall Dawes, Sr., past FFA board member, 84, was honored as Oldest Male – but only because long-time winner Waldo Howe, 94, was delayed by traffic between Cape Cod and Dedham! Piper Matthews, Betty Matthews' granddaughter, won the prize for Youngest Attendee.

**Our 103<sup>rd</sup> reunion will be held at Fairbanks House August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Mark your calendar and plan to join us**





Fairbanks

**FAIRBANKS FAMILY IN AMERICA  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF**

---

PRESIDENT	<i>Lynn Fairbank</i>
VICE PRESIDENT	<i>Sally Fuller</i>
SECRETARY	<i>Jayne Holman</i>
TREASURER	<i>Marshall Dawes</i>
SOUVENIRS	<i>Ruth Cutler</i>
GENEALOGY	<i>Bill Fairbanks</i>
COLLECTIONS	<i>Jonathan Fairbanks</i>
WEBSITE	<i>Mara Cronin</i>
DIRECTOR	<i>Allen Blood</i>
DIRECTOR/CURATOR	<i>Jan Eakins</i>

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, it's that time of year again when we are getting ready to put the old house to bed for the Winter. This has been one of our most successful seasons. We have had more visitors and have sold more souvenirs than ever before. Congratulations to Jan, our new Director/Curator, who came up with the idea of putting up an OPEN flag. It made a huge difference.

Unfortunately, we have recently discovered water leaking through at the joining of the roofs over the lean-to. We may have to replace the roof and are right now looking at covering the leaks on a temporary basis. I will keep you apprised of the situation.

On the weekend of Halloween, the Fairbanks House participated with three other community organizations in a fundraiser called Dedham Hauntings and Mysteries – a trolley tour of sites, stories, and legends of almost 400 years of Dedham history. The tour covered such stories as the Fairbanks/Fales murder case of 1801, the filming of the 1919 silent movie Anne of Green Gables at the old house, and the subsequent murder mystery involving the film's director and star. It was a fun and informative project for the community, and a chance to highlight the old house.

We are also in the process of working with Andrea Gilmore, a principal in Building Conservation Associates, to develop a conservation plan for the Fairbanks House. We will be looking for grant monies to conduct this very important project.

Jan has put together a study group composed of our volunteers who will be reading books pertinent to the early days of the house. After the 1st of the year we are hoping to start another group that will be open to our membership. More information will follow.

Have a great Holiday season, and remember to check our souvenir page and new online gift shop for gifts for those hard-to-buy-for relatives.

Sincerely yours,

Lynn A. Fairbank

# FAMILIAR FACE RETURNS TO THE BOARD

**A**llen H. Blood is back on the Board of Directors after a decade's absence. He served as president from 1990 to 1995, and was a Director for much of the 1980s. In the interim, Al helped coordinate the upgrading and renovation of the office (ballroom) in the curator's bungalow. He is particularly interested in providing what help he can to ensure the ongoing preservation of the old house and wants to continue to nurture the FFA endowment, which was jump-started with a generous bequest from Cornelia Fairbanks Albright during his tenure as president.

Al, who retired in October 2003 after 33 years of service as an administrator to the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, lives with his wife Tina in Norwood, MA. They are looking forward to a trip this holiday season to visit their son Jeffery and his family at Camp Zama Army Base in Japan. Meeting their first grandchild, Madison (8 months old), will be the highlight of their trip. Their daughter Heather lives in Pennsylvania where she works as a director of graphic design for an advertising agency. Their son Christopher lives in West Virginia working as a counselor at a residential home for troubled youths. Al is descended through John's line.

## GENEALOGY PROJECT UPDATE

Dear Cousins,

Back in the late 1970's, Dr. E.J. Fairbanks started to work on tracing our Genealogy. Because we did not do much with computers then, he would gather up the information sent to him (typed and long hand) and piece the connections together. When E.J. could no longer continue this project, he sent the records to the Fairbanks House and a new group of volunteers headed by Bill Nesbit continued on.

This second group (myself included) began to enter all the information from the L.S. Fairbanks 1455-1897 genealogy book into computers so we would have all old and new information on the computer for the future. It was sad to see that one by one the group got smaller until there was just Verle Fairbanks, who volunteered to take over the project. You probably know that Verle passed away a few years ago and his son was kind enough to send everything back to the Fairbanks house.

Two and a half years ago I established a third group with three new volunteers to help me and we are continuing to go forward. I have to tell you, that without these 3 volunteers (remember the word volunteer means "unpaid helper"), I would be in big trouble. With their assistance we have been able to add more information and do some merging of duplicate information and the project is moving along as quickly as we can enter the information. We do, however, need additional assistance.

With this note I am asking for more volunteers to come forward and help with the project so we can do other research that is needed plus copying files stored at the office as needed. **Anyone wishing to volunteer please write to me c/o the Fairbanks House or e-mail me at [ffagen@charter.net](mailto:ffagen@charter.net).**

I do want to remind my Fairbanks cousins that we are no longer taking any more additions unless it is an up date of information sent in prior to December 31, 2001.

Thank you,  
Bill A. Fairbanks  
Board Member and Genealogy Project Chairman

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Visitation to the homestead grew a whopping 40% this season, a period when many historic sites suffered flat or declining attendance. While many of our guests had toured the house before, it was the first visit for most. Word of mouth by Fairbanks cousins brought many visitors – thanks! Our website attracted “web browsers” planning a vacation or tracing family roots. A new “OPEN” banner encouraged many locals to stop and explore. Publicity in the *Boston Globe* and the *Dedham Times*, along with my attendance at community events, further raised awareness and attendance.

It has been terrific to meet so many of you at the old house, at the Reunion, or by telephone. I particularly appreciate your feedback on the Reunion as we seek to connect old traditions with new ideas. Les Fairbanks emailed to let us know he’d like us to give in-depth tours of the Homestead on Reunion day. We exchanged email and agreed that offering regular tours in early morning and late afternoon in addition to the mid-afternoon Open House would accommodate those who want a “quick peek” and those we want to see more. Debbie Fairbank Hurtig emailed to let us know her children enjoyed seeing the clown and acting in “The Golden Goose.” She told us, “My kids were not at all excited about coming (I gave them no choice) but upon arriving home they told their sister (who stayed home with Dad to go to a

friend’s birthday party) that they had had a better time than she had at her party.” High praise!

Volunteers and I began to inventory our collection for the first time in many years. It will be a long, rewarding adventure over at least two years. We are assessing the condition of each item, tracing its provenance and considering how it tells the Fairbanks story, information that enriches our tours. We will enter our findings into a database for ongoing reference.

I have spent considerable time getting to know our wonderful volunteers and recruiting more since I arrived in April. Nancy Galante, a junior at Dedham High School, is one of several newcomers. Nancy completed a summer internship and has continued to help out this fall; many of you met her at the Reunion registration table. In October we initiated a study group for current and interested volunteers. Our first session covered what is known of Jonathan and Grace and their six children along with excerpts from David Hackett Fischer’s *Albion’s Seed* that help place the family in the context of their Puritan faith and the life they left behind in England. Our discussion was lively and informative. We are now reading Freeman Wills Hawke’s *Everyday Life in Early America* to better understand what life might have been like for them at Fairbanks House.

## ON EXHIBIT

Jonathan Fairbanks has two exhibits running at the moment. *Jonathan Leo Fairbanks - A Painter’s Journey, 1952-2004* runs through January 16, 2005 at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, Hagerstown, Maryland. Jonathan also curated *Becoming a Nation* for the United States Department of State, an exhibit on American decorative arts that is on view at the Portland Museum of Art in Maine through January 2, 2005.

## CORRECTION

Several cousins noticed an error in the spring issue: Charles W. Fairbanks was the Senator from Indiana, not Illinois as was stated.

# ON TOUR AT FAIRBANKS HOUSE

By Jan Eakins

The first visitor in our official 2004 season – and the first in our 101<sup>st</sup> year of operation as a museum – was Nuala Shiochru of Attleboro, MA, who arrived on May 1<sup>st</sup> for her first tour of the house. Nuala joined FAA that day, attended the Reunion, and volunteered to help with the genealogy project. The season's last official visitors were eight-year old Maddie and her dad, both of Dedham. They stopped to learn more about our house after enjoying the Dedham Hauntings and Mysteries trolley tour the night before. Madeleine found spinning wool of great interest, while her dad busied himself by examining mortise and tenon joints.

It was a special pleasure to share the delight of Fairbanks cousins like Nuala connecting with their ancestral home for the first time, fun too to see locals stunned to encounter the riches of our house and its collections so close to home. Other memorable tours were the one I gave in Spanish; one for three visitors who could neither speak, hear, nor read lips in English (we wrote notes and laughed a lot); and one for a family of descendants who arrived at dusk and cheerfully toured the house in semi-darkness.

Abbott Lowell Cummings, who has studied and written about Fairbanks House since the 1960s, led 35 vernacular architecture experts from England in exploring virtually every corner of the old house from cellar to attic. Scheduled to spend 45 minutes, they remained nearly two hours. One might assume these

visitors have “seen it all” in England, yet they were entranced to find our house so untouched by time and to examine its original materials and construction details such as chamfered rafters and marks the builders cut into the house frame and fireplace lintel to protect the new dwelling from fire and witches.

One Tuesday in October, two third-grade classes from Newman Elementary School in Needham, MA boarded buses and traced the route of migration from Charlestown (Boston) to Watertown to Dedham to Needham (once part of Dedham). During their Dedham stop, they toured our house, drew “portraits” of it, inspected bits of pottery and china excavated from its yard, read *If You Lived in Colonial Times*, and examined hands-on models of an ear trumpet, trencher, and other old and mysterious items fabricated by our wonderful volunteer Paul Levesque. Eager to bring history alive for children, Fairbanks House curators and volunteers have long welcomed school groups. Jane Crandall, a new volunteer recently retired from teaching, will be working this winter to revamp and expand our school tours in 2005.

Although our official season closed October 31<sup>st</sup>, we will give the final tour of the year on November 6 for 105 members of the Decorative Arts Society, some of them donors who made purchase of the chest possible. After that we'll close the house for a well-deserved rest until May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## NEW ONLINE STORE OPENS FOR BUSINESS

Visitors to our new online store, which opened November 11, can view photographs of new products and old favorites, then order them via a secure PayPal link that sends an email to Fairbanks House so we can process orders quickly. We can ship most items ordered before December 10, 2004 so they arrive in time for Christmas. Personalized items such as the new baby blanket and bib should be ordered no later than December 3 for Christmas delivery. Regular customers should note that prices at the online store are not higher than in the past: prices include handling, shipping and tax.

Shoppers can reach the online store via the FFA website at [fairbankshouse.org](http://fairbankshouse.org).

## FAIRBANKS HOUSE SHOP – WINTER 2004-2005

	Price	Qty	Total
<b>BOOKS</b>			
<i>Fairbanks Genealogy</i> – L.S. Fairbanks family history & descendants to 1897, hard cover	\$75.00		
<i>Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay</i> – Abbott Cummings classic on Fairbanks House & other First Period structures, soft cover	\$35.00		
<b>Our best seller!</b> <i>The Fairbanks House</i> – history by Abbott Cummings, soft cover	\$15.00		
<i>Open House</i> – 300-year history of the American home, including our house, hard cover	\$35.00		
<i>A New England Town, The First 100 Years</i> – Kenneth Lockridge on Dedham, soft cover	\$24.00		
<i>Homestead Hearth</i> cookbook – favorite recipes gathered by Fairbanks descendants	\$12.00		
<i>If You Lived in Colonial Times</i> – learn about colonial life, for ages 8 and up	\$ 6.00		
<i>Ye Fayerbanke Historical</i> – reprint of the first Family newsletter of 1903	\$ 5.00		
<i>Quilting Book</i> – patterns of two 19th c. quilts in our collection	\$12.00		
<b>OTHER PRINTED MATERIAL</b>			
Counted Cross-Stitch Pattern for 1763 sampler by Mary Fairbanks, with instructions	\$ 4.00		
Needlework Chart – image of Fairbanks House for cross-stitch or needlepoint	\$ 4.00		
Engraved Note Cards – 1885 engraving of the Homestead, 8 per package	\$ 6.00		
Winter Note Cards – winter scene photo of the Homestead, 8 per package	\$ 6.00		
Sketch Note Cards – black & white drawing of the House, 8 per package	\$ 6.00		
Coat of Arms – 5" x 7" color print of the Fairbanks Family Crest	\$ 2.00		
<b>HOUSEHOLD ITEMS</b>			
Staffordshire Porcelain Plate – 10" across, Fairbanks House in blue on white	\$20.00		
Staffordshire Porcelain Pitcher – 6" high, Fairbanks House in blue on white	\$40.00		
Dedham Pottery Plate – fine reproduction, Homestead hand-painted in blue on white	\$98.00		
Ceramic Tile – blue & white sketch of Homestead, use as wall hanging or trivet	\$ 5.00		
Coffee Mug – blue on white, with sketch of Homestead	\$ 5.00		
Pot Holder – blue on white, with sketch of Homestead – ready to mail to a friend	\$ 4.00		
Mirror – 18" by 10" frame with mirror & inset color lithograph of Fairbanks House	\$60.00		
<i>Haytime at the Homestead</i> – print of an 1882 autumn photograph	\$ 3.00		
Sketch Print of Homestead – black & white sketch, matted	\$10.00		
1930's Photo Print of Homestead – by Boston photographer, archive matted & framed	\$60.00		
1930's Photo Print of Homestead – by Boston photographer, archive matted	\$25.00		
<b>CLOTHING</b>			
<b>NEW!</b> Baby Bib – white knitted terry with embroidered Crest, Velcro closure	\$14.00		
<b>NEW!</b> Baby Blanket – cuddly white microfleece with embroidered Crest	\$40.00		
<i>Personalize bib or blanket. Fax orders by 12/3/04 for holiday delivery.</i>	Add		
Baby's name: _____ Birth date:    /    /	\$6.00		
<b>NEW!</b> Apron – royal blue 100% cotton with embroidered Crest, unisex, 22" x 30"	\$30.00		
Baseball Cap – denim with embroidered Crest, adjustable leather strap	\$28.00		
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
<b>NEW!</b> Canvas Tote – embroidered w/ woodcut image of Fairbanks House	\$24.00		
<b>SPECIAL PRICE!</b> Sebastian Miniature of Homestead, ceramic edition	\$14.00		
Cup Plate – features Homestead in blue glass, with stand	\$10.00		
Etched Crystal – Homestead on clear glass, Christmas ornament or window sun-catcher	\$20.00		
Charm – pewter cast of Homestead for bracelet or chain	\$ 5.00		
Brooch – round pewter pin with Homestead in center	\$ 5.00		
Souvenir Spoon – pewter with Homestead on handle	\$ 5.00		
Key Chain – Fairbanks Crest in copper with safety latch	\$10.00		
<b>SPECIAL PRICE</b> Miniature Spinning Wheel – wooden	\$ 2.00		
Fairbanks Crest Chair by Standard Chair of Gardner – <i>contact us for details</i>	\$ .		
Fairbanks Family Signet Ring – <i>contact us for details</i>	\$ .		

	<b>FFA Membership Pack</b> – Membership certificate for 1 year (\$25) or life (\$500) + color print Fairbanks coat of arms. Add gift certificate for \$50 that is valid for special 10% discount. In tube w/ gift card.	\$25.00 and up		
	<b>Deluxe FFA Membership Pack</b> – Membership certificate for 1-year (\$25) or life (\$500) + color print Fairbanks coat of arms + <i>Fairbanks Family in America</i> + <i>Fairbanks House</i> by Cummings. Add gift certificate for \$50 that is valid for special 10% discount. In basket w/ gift card.	\$125.00 and up		
	<b>Kitchen Pack</b> – Apron with Fairbanks Crest + <i>Homestead Hearth</i> cookbook + blue & white tile w/ Homestead image. In basket w/ gift card.	\$50.00		
	<b>Stack of Boxes</b> – Sebastian miniature of Homestead + Homestead cup plate and stand + Homestead crystal sun-catcher. Individually wrapped & stacked boxes w/ gift card.	\$50.00		
	<b>Historian's Pack</b> – <i>Fairbanks House</i> by Cummings + <i>A New England Town</i> , + <i>Ye Fayerbanke Historical</i> + copy of Dedham Village map, architectural drawing of Homestead, and other historic documents and tools. Stacked and wrapped w/ gift card.	\$55.00		
	<b>Tote Bag Pack 1</b> – White 100% cotton polo shirt w/ embroidered Crest. In canvas tote embroidered w/ image of Homestead. Gift card. <b>Specify size:</b> adult <u>  </u> M <u>  </u> L <u>  </u> XL <u>  </u>	\$55.00		
	<b>Tote Bag Pack 2</b> – Denim baseball cap w/ embroidered Crest. In canvas tote embroidered w/ image of Homestead. Gift card.	\$55.00		
	<b>Deluxe Tote Bag Pack</b> – Fine reproductions of Dedham Pottery plate and early Wedgewood plate with Homestead image (1976 edition). In canvas tote embroidered w/ image of Homestead. Gift card. <i>Quantity limited.</i>	\$180.00		

✦ **CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS with Stocking Stuffers from FFA** ✦

	<b>SPECIAL PRICE</b> Fairbanks House Admission Ticket – \$4/adult	\$4.00		
	<b>SPECIAL PRICE</b> Fairbanks House Admission Ticket – \$1/child 6-12	\$1.00		
	<b>More Stocking Stuffers from our regular stock – \$2.00 and up.</b> ( <i>Details &amp; prices above</i> )			
	– Homestead note cards	– Family Crest key chain	– Homestead cup plate	
	– Homestead crystal sun-catcher	– Homestead pewter charm	– Homestead souvenir spoon	
	– Sebastian miniature of Homestead	– Homestead pewter brooch	– Miniature spinning wheel	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ .		
	Massachusetts residents add 5% Sales Tax	\$ .		
	Shipping & Handling (based on Subtotal)	\$ .		
	<b>Total Enclosed</b>	\$ .		

**HOLIDAY DELIVERY:** *Order personalized items by 12/3/04; order other items by 12/10/04.*

Shipping & Handling	Amount
\$5.00 and under	\$2.50
\$5.01 to \$10.00	\$4.00
\$10.01 to \$20.00	\$5.50
\$20.01 to \$40.00	\$7.00
\$40.01 to \$60.00	\$8.00
\$60.01 to \$100.00	\$9.00
\$100.01 to \$150.00	\$11.00
Over \$ 150.00	\$16.00

CHOOSE YOUR METHOD OF PAYMENT
<p><b>1. Mail your order.</b> Mail a check or credit card information along with your completed order form to: Fairbanks House 511 East Street, Dedham, MA 02026-3060.</p> <p><b>2. FAX your order 24 hours a day.</b> FAX your completed order form and credit card information to 781-326-2147.</p> <p>Card # _____ Expiration Date _____</p> <p>Signature _____</p>

<b>Ship To (Please Print):</b>	
Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	Email address:

*For further information please call our office at 781-326-1170 or email us at: [fairbankshouse@aol.com](mailto:fairbankshouse@aol.com).*

Visit our new online store at [www.fairbankshouse.org](http://www.fairbankshouse.org).

FAIRBANKS FAMILY IN AMERICA, INC.  
511 EAST STREET  
DEDHAM, MA 02026-3060  
(781) 326-1170  
www.fairbankshouse.org



# NEW AT THE FAIRBANKS HOUSE SHOP FOR HOLIDAY GIVING

Seven gift packs are now available from The Fairbanks House Shop. Some feature special items available only in limited quantities. Each is packaged for holiday giving.



We have introduced three new items embroidered with the Crest: baby bib, baby blanket, and apron. The sturdy baby bib is made of knitted terry with a Velcro closure, the blanket is comfy microfleece. Both are white with white edging and can be personalized with Baby's name and date of birth. The royal blue 100% cotton apron is a generous 30 inches long, perfect for men and women.

You can order these and other gifts by mailing the form found on pages 6-7 of this issue or visit our new on-line store at [www.fairbankshouse.org](http://www.fairbankshouse.org) to place your order via a secure PayPal link.

