

YOU ARE HERE IN DUXBURY HISTORY: CREATING A NEW TYPE OF EXHIBIT

By Melanie Correia, Museum Collections Manager

In February 2021, the DRHS decided to bring the museum out of our historic houses and into the hands of the people, with the help of a wide swath of businesses and organizations in Duxbury. Each partner location has a history panel located at their site with a small slice of Duxbury history and images of items in our permanent collection.



The panels are customized to the location, either by topic or physical location. For example, at Brothers Marketplace you can read all about the Ford Store – the first department store in Duxbury, also opened by a set of brothers; at the Beehive Beauty salon on St. George Street you can discover how tortoiseshell combs revolutionized fashion in the early 19th century; and at the CVS in Kingston, you can see some amazing photographs and learn about the first Black-owned campground in Duxbury/Kingston that was right down the road from where the CVS is now, Camp Twin Oaks.

We currently have 16 panels up around town and are thrilled to announce that more *You Are Here* panels will be arriving this summer! Starting in June, you can learn the story behind the Myles Standish Monument at Duxbury Pizza – just down the road from the monument itself, or while you're at The Oysterman, you can read about the original Duxbury Railroad line. Stopping in at 93 Tremont Street Medical Offices? See photographs of some items from our collection originally owned by Dr. James Wilde, one of Duxbury's town physicians during the mid-1800s, and plenty more!

You Are Here, the title of our first ever community-wide exhibit, is a play on itself. In some cases, it means that you are literally (t)here, standing in a physical location reading the history we have the opportunity to present to you. In another way, the *You Are Here* title is bringing the importance of place to light – you, standing here, reading this, living in this unprecedented time, are an important part of Duxbury's history and in a year where we've lost thousands of people to a pandemic, you being here is something to cherish, and celebrate.

Thank you to all our partners for hosting the *You Are Here* exhibition. Check out the panels at these locations* or all on our website at duxburyhistory.org.

CONFIRMED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS:

Duxbury Bay Maritime School
Brothers Marketplace
Bay Farm Montessori
VERC Gulf Station
The Foodsmith
Osborn's Country Store
Duxbury High School
The Village at Duxbury
CVS, Kingston

French Memories
Rockland Trust, Duxbury
South Shore Sotheby's International Realty
Chestnut Street Grille
Beehive Beauty, Inc.
Duxbury Free Library
Oropa

COMING SOON:

The Oysterman
Blakeman's
Duxbury Pizza
95 Tremont St. Medical Offices
Sun Tavern
Island Creek Oysters
Percy Walker Pool
Sheehan Orthodontics

* Some locations may have limited accessibility. Please inquire with the location for specifics before visiting.



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AUGUST EVENTS

Friday, August 6, 6 - 8pm
**Members' Sunset Picnic,
King Caesar House Lawn**

Pack a picnic and join us to listen to the bluegrass sounds of Sparrow Blue on the picturesque front lawn of King Caesar House. This event is free for members, but unlike past years, preregistration is required. Refer to our website for policies.

Friday, August 13,
1pm & 2:30pm
**New Beginnings at the
King Caesar House**

In the late 19th century Duxbury was becoming a popular summer destination and its land was becoming developed. Frederick B. Knapp was at the forefront of these changes, operating the Powder Point School for Boys from the King Caesar House, while buying and selling real estate along the shore. Learn about the life and times of this educator and entrepreneur. Tours are limited to 8 people; advanced tickets required, \$10/person; visit our website to purchase.



We hope that the summer weather and broader vaccine distribution will allow for more in-person events. We will update our website with new opportunities as they become possible. Please check back often – You never know what Duxbury History will do next!

SPRING 2021

LAMPGLIMMER

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE DUXBURY
RURAL & HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy spring to all of our DRHS Friends! As a new season begins, the DRHS is rolling out the carpet, renewed with energy and anticipation for the days ahead. While we continue to be cautious, optimism is creeping in and we cannot wait to see you again at one of the exciting programs and events in this newsletter.



Spring is springing across the DRHS properties and seasonal cleanup is underway. We appreciate our new stewardship partnership with the Wildlands Trust, providing crucial support to caring for the lands portfolio entrusted to us. Among other projects, you may have noticed recent efforts at the trails at Lapham Woods, with the rebuilt bench by the lake at Round Pond, and with the clean up efforts along Tremont Street.

The DRHS has also engaged in a review of our mission, vision and values as part of our ongoing strategic planning. The DRHS strategic planning affirms our commitment to doing quality work, welcoming our audiences, and being a responsible, inclusive neighbor in this community. These values are not new; they are part of the work that we've been doing for years. But it is as important as ever to re-affirm and to deploy these values through the broad spectrum of DRHS activity. Our updated Strategic Plan will be released publicly this summer.

My warmest wishes to you all. See you soon at the DRHS!

Erin McGough
Executive Director

DRHS TO PUBLISH FIRST CHILDREN'S BOOK



The DRHS is honored to announce that it has acquired the rights to publish *Ezra and the Mouse: The Search for Lafayette* by Duxbury author **Victoria J. Coe**, creator of the popular *Fenway and Hattie* series.

The family-friendly historical adventure is set in Duxbury in 1822 and inspired by actual events. The book features 12 year-old Ezra Weston IV (son of "King Caesar") and his best friend and cousin Elizabeth Bradford (daughter of the Bradford House) among many other real-life Duxbury residents.

The double-story weaves together Ezra's perspective as the son of a New England shipping magnate family as he pursues smugglers, along with that of a mouse desperate to reunite with his family and find the 500-pound cheese called "Lafayette."

Marietta Zacker at Gallt & Zacker Literary represented the author in the deal for world rights. Publication is scheduled for Fall 2021. Check our website for presale orders!

Phebe Aderton

The Other Mrs. Weston in the King Caesar House

By Carolyn Ravenscroft, Archivist & Historian

When Jerusha (Bradford) Weston and her husband, Ezra Weston Jr., built their Federal-style mansion in 1809, it was likely Jerusha who made many of the decorative choices that we still marvel at inside the King Caesar House today. Because she was the first woman to preside over the home, we often overlook her daughter-in-law, Phebe (Aderton) Weston. Although Phebe's tenure in the house was short, there is much to be said about her impact on the Weston family.

Phebe Aderton (1805–1869) was born in Freeport, ME to Samuel and Phebe (Dunham) Aderton. When she was five months old, her father died at sea. This tragedy was compounded when, while still a child, Phebe lost her mother as well. She married her first husband, David Weston, in Boston when she was 21-years-old. David was a cousin of the Duxbury Powder Point Westons, so it is possible Phebe was introduced to a young man named Alden Bradford Weston when she and David were courting.

Phebe and David Weston moved to St. Louis, MO where David established himself as a lumber merchant. After twelve years in the west, David died. The following year, widowed Phebe married John R. Hammond. Hammond was also a New England transplant in St. Louis and a lumber merchant. At the time of his wedding to Phebe, he was a widower with a ten-year-old son, Alex. Phebe's life changed dramatically with this marriage. She was now not only a step-mother but also the mistress to an enslaved family: Philip and Joanne Montgomery and their daughter, Laura, also called Lawrence (a family name of Hammond's first wife).

Illness forced John R. Hammond to move from St. Louis to his farm in Henry County, IL, where he hoped to regain his health. In 1856, as his condition worsened, he wrote his will, in which he emancipated Philip and Joanna Montgomery. It is important to note that Hammond had taken the Montgomerys with him to Illinois, a free state, but he still considered them his legal property. This belief was reinforced by the infamous Dred



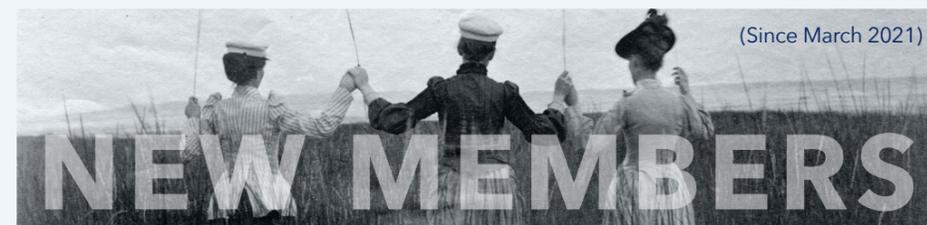
Scott case decided by the US Supreme Court, just months before Hammond died, in 1857. Hammond did not free the Montgomery's daughter or her unnamed child, instead he bequeathed them to his wife, Phebe. How Phebe felt about this, we do not know, but within three years, Laura was living with her parents in Michigan. Perhaps Phebe emancipated Laura, or she escaped and went north.

In 1860, the twice-widowed Phebe was residing in St. Louis where she married Alden Bradford Weston, the second son of Jerusha and Ezra Weston of Duxbury. At the time he was the sole owner of the King Caesar House. How did this marriage come to pass? Why did Alden, a 55-year-old confirmed bachelor, retired merchant, and wealthiest man in Duxbury travel to Missouri to wed a woman who had lived in the west for three decades? While we don't know the hows or whys of this match, one thing is certain: Alden Bradford Weston brought a former slave-owner to Duxbury and into the bosom of

his extended family, which included some of the town's leading abolitionists.

It wasn't long before Alden and his older brother, Gershom Bradford Weston, had a falling out over money. For years Alden had propped up his brother's lavish spending with loans, including a mortgage of Gershom's estate on St. George Street. Of the strained relationship, cousin Sarah Alden (Bradford) Ripley wrote in 1862, "While I was in Duxbury I took tea with Gershom and dined with [Alden]. Is it not too bad that Gershom and [Alden] have not intercourse? Blessed be nothing if money separates those whom God has joined together." Alden eventually called in his brother's mortgage and bankrupted him. Gershom was forced to vacate his mansion which Alden then sold to George and Georgianna Wright. The house became known to subsequent generations in Duxbury as the Wright Estate. Gershom Bradford Weston died impoverished in 1869. Did Phebe play a role in the cooling of brotherly affection? There are so few mentions of her in the correspondence of the time, we can't know for sure.

Phebe died of cancer after living in the King Caesar House for nine short years. She left no indelible, physical mark. There are no architectural or decorative changes that we can point to and say, "Phebe Aderton Weston influenced that." However, as the only other Mrs. Weston to reside there, her story belongs in the narrative.



(Since March 2021)

Those who have joined, rejoined, or increased support since the publication of the Annual Report.

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Thank you to our 2021 Corporate & Organizational Sponsors:



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Thank you to our other sponsors & partners

First Parish Church, Duxbury
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Duxbury 2020, Inc.
Tony Kelso, Town Historian, Duxbury

GO PLAY OUTSIDE!

MAY

Fridays in May
9:30 - 10:30am
Barre on Bumpus

Join local fitness instructor, Cheryl Kilduff, for Barre classes at DRHS property Bumpus Park, which overlooks the King Caesar House and Duxbury Bay. \$10/per session. Book online at our website.

Friday, May 21
11am - Sunset, drop-in
R&R (Read and Relax)
Outdoors with the DRHS

Unwind with a book at one of our beautiful properties; book offerings and story time locations at our website. Free program offered in partnership with the Duxbury Free Library.

Online ticket purchase at DRHS website: duxburyhistory.org/events

JUNE

Month of June
"You Are Here" Exhibition
Read article in this newsletter or go online: duxburyhistory.org/events/you-are-here-special-exhibition/

Friday, June 11, 3 - 5pm
479 Washington St.
Create and Learn -
The Art of Pressed Flowers

The art of pressing flowers has a long history in Duxbury. Materials, instructions, and time will be provided for independent crafting. \$20/person; \$15/DRHS Members.

Friday June 18
11am - 2pm, drop-in
International Picnic Day

Celebrate international picnic day! We invite you to pack a basket and enjoy a picnic on one of our properties to celebrate. DRHS staff will be

on hand at select locations with cookies and lemonade, and to answer questions. Free program.

JULY

Friday, July 9, 1pm & 2:30pm
Women in the King Caesar House

From a female head of household, to domestic servants, King Caesar House has been home to many women over the years. This tour will examine some of their lives and occupations. Tours are limited to 8 people; advanced tickets required, \$10/person; visit our website to purchase.



As always, King Caesar House regular season tours are free for DRHS Members!

1pm & 2:30pm
Who was King Caesar?
Family Friendly Themed Tour

After your picnic, join us for a family friendly, (mostly) outdoor tour at King Caesar House, including hands-on demonstrations about Duxbury ships and their voyages. This tour is appropriate for elementary aged children and up. Tours are limited to 8 people; advanced tickets required, \$10/person.

Friday, June 25
1pm & 2:30pm
King Caesar House Tours

Beginning June 25, King Caesar House will open for museum tours on Fridays with a tour offered at 1pm and another at 2:30 pm. Advanced tickets required, \$10/person

Turn to back page for continuation of summer events

Many of the most iconic outdoor spaces in Duxbury are maintained by the DRHS; we encourage you to get outside and explore!