

The Duston-Dustin Family Association

Minutes of the 115th Annual Meeting, August 10, 2019

The Buttonwoods Museum, Haverhill, Mass.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Officers present were:

- President John E. Dustin
- Vice President David W. Jellison
- Treasurer Peter G. Dustin
- Historian Craig Richardson
- Secretary David A. Dustin.

Also in attendance were:

- Diane Dustin Itasaka (President, Duston-Dustin Garrison House Association)
- Jennifer Emerson (Director, DDGHA)

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized the Secretary for an item of special business. The Secretary read the following statement:

For more than six decades Cedric H. Dustin Jr. has served as a mainstay of the DDFA, rotating through virtually all executive offices and representing the Association to state and local governments, agencies, and commissions, as well as historical societies and museums. To honor his long and distinguished service, on a motion by the Secretary in October 2018, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to confer upon him the title of President Emeritus, and we are privileged to do so today.

The Executive Committee presented Cedric with a plaque conferring upon him the title of *President Emeritus*. He delivered brief remarks after which the order of business was resumed under the President's direction.

OLD BUSINESS

2. The Secretary read the minutes from the 114th annual meeting, which were accepted as presented.

3. The Treasurer read the Treasurer's Report. (See addendum.) His report was accepted as presented.

4. The Historian/Genealogist reported that he has continued to update draft genealogy books created by previous Historian/Genealogist Chris Bailey. He said Generations 1-5 are in fairly decent shape and could be published with a bit more editing. In Generations 6 and 7, however, new sources are coming available and he has noted a lot of missing families. He is searching for new information about those families. Halfway through Generation 7, he said he is finding about a third more individuals because of identifying many new sources, particularly in Canada. He said that our family

tree now numbers about 8,100 individuals. In his opinion better use could be made of our website; right now it only shows meeting notices and minutes. The main question that he sees before us at this time is how do we want to publish our family data? All in books or should we put some of the information on-line?

5. The Secretary read the Secretary's Report. (See addendum.)¹

The Secretary reported the composition of the DDFA Executive Committee per last year's election:

- President, John E. Dustin, Shrewsbury, MA.
- Vice President, David W. Jellison, Amesbury, MA.
- Treasurer, Peter G. Dustin, Ardmore, PA.
- Secretary, David A. Dustin, Contoocook, NH
- Historian (Genealogist), Craig Richardson, Amherst, NH

He reported that the following Executive Committee positions remain unoccupied and invited nominations:

- Assistant Secretary
- Assistant Historian (i.e., Assistant Genealogist).

2018 end-year active membership stood at 199. We saw 9 expired annual members and 3 deaths. Eleven life members joined another 169 existing Life members. Thus, membership rose just a little from 2017 (195).

6. Executive Committee meetings. The officers had resolved to meet more frequently in view of a build-up of business matters. The Executive Committee, plus DDGHA President Diane Dustin Itasaka, met by teleconference in October 2018, and February, May, and June of 2019.

7. Great Lakes Dustin Association. Contact was re-established with the Great Lakes Dustin Association in the vicinity of Kalamazoo, Michigan. They also are seeing declining attendance and may cease holding their annual picnic which our Secretary attended last year as a guest of their president, Ken Dustin, and secretary, Jane Goodwin.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Changes to Bylaws. President reviewed the principal changes proposed in the hard-copy and electronic attachments to the annual meeting invitation. They included a broadening of eligibility for membership, addition of annual meeting flexibility as to date and frequency, definition of the DDFA fiscal year, elimination of officer salaries, and lessening the quorum required for annual meeting voting.

¹ Afterwards, Stephen Dustin commented that these were the best Secretary and Treasurer reports he had heard in his 30 years of Life membership.

The President Emeritus noted that our existing bylaws stipulate that any changes thereto had to be proposed for consideration at an annual meeting, and could only be put to a vote at the following annual meeting. So this meeting could only constitute notification. The President also questioned the timing of a vote on the change proposal.

The Secretary responded that the proposed bylaws amendments had been distributed by the Executive Committee prior to the meeting to all members of record for review, with a request that members be prepared to waive the bylaws notification-then-voting requirement. He said the bylaws otherwise prescribe a “glacial process” for considering changes, and that in this case the Executive Committee was addressing critical issues that had been neglected over decades of declining membership, and which the committee had agreed warranted expediting.

The Treasurer spoke in favor of waiving the protracted bylaws change process and moved that the issue be put to a vote in this annual meeting. The motion to waive the one-year prior notification was seconded and passed, 16 to nil.

The Treasurer then moved to adopt all the proposed changes to the bylaws. The motion was seconded and passed, with 20 in favor out of 28 members present.

9. The Treasurer solicited nominations for the open Executive Committee positions, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Historian. None were proposed.

10. The Treasurer invited any non-member attendees to join the DDFA today. The Secretary added that we were able to accept credit cards at this meeting, making it convenient to pay \$100 Life dues if any were so inclined.

11. The President requested nominations for Executive Committee offices for 2020. There being none, he nominated the existing officers who were re-elected by unanimous vote: John Dustin, President, David Jellison, Vice President, Peter Dustin, Treasurer, Craig Richardson, Historian, David Dustin, Secretary.

GARRISON HOUSE ASSOCIATION UPDATE

12. At the President’s invitation, Diane Dustin Itasaka, president of the DDGHA, rose to discuss the Duston Garrison House, which she said is a Haverhill historical treasure, and one of the Haverhill Chamber of Commerce’s designated “historical gems.” She said the donations coffee can at the Garrison House is what the DDGHA counts on for operating funds.

She introduced or named her group of volunteers: Tom Spitalere, Jennifer Emerson, Tony Perillo, Melinda Perillo Beliveau, Tricia Gordon, and April Muraco. What do we do, she asked? We “show up” at a series of open houses, four hours without climate control or a bathroom. How do we know how well we are doing? Every year the Chamber of Commerce publishes Haverhill’s Best, where people can vote on the city’s “best” things in various categories. In 2019 the Duston Garrison House came in 3rd place tied with John

Greenleaf Whittier’s birthplace, another local landmark. She cited an Instagram channel the DDGHA put on social media last year, a fundraiser that they carried out last October, having DDGHA Director Jennifer Emerson re-enacting Hannah Duston (“Goodwife Duston”), and what DDGHA Director Tom Spitalere does as “trails and sails,” a historical tour program conducted on behalf of Essex County National Heritage, which visits the Garrison House. She said the DDGHA has a Facebook page, a website that’s being worked on, and a list of repairs that will be done to the house.²

Diane said she posts Garrison House open-house dates and times annually on the Duston-Dustin Garrison House Association Facebook page. A member asked her if a Facebook page was easier to set up; Diane said yes because the DDGHA doesn’t have an internet website yet. She said her group needs to know that they will be ready to handle things when it is because once the Duston Garrison House is out there on the internet she expected it would be highly popular.

The Secretary said that, in his observation, the DDGHA’s autumn “Bewitching Hour” event had been exceptional. It was impressive to see the line of people waiting for the door to open. And having some members of the Massachusetts militia attending in their period uniforms, muskets, and regalia made for a memorable event. He added that having a port-o-san on site made it convenient for public attendance.

Diane said the DDGHA had thought of adding an event for veterans, with rented tents, tables, and early militia re-enactors. She said they have to plan well and “do it right” because not everyone in the city is on-board with Hannah Duston.

13. Attendance. The President asked for a show of hands and this year’s annual meeting attendance profile looked like this:

Massachusetts	11
New Hampshire	7
California	5
Oregon	3
Pennsylvania	2
Connecticut	1
Maryland	1
Maine	1
Arizona	1
Total	32

² The Treasurer (Architect Peter G. Dustin) noted that there are several substantial building modifications that need to be implemented at the Garrison House. He said DDGHA Director Tom Spitalere had told him that there are 62 non-profit organizations in Haverhill all competing for sponsors, so raising money is a challenge for local “historical gems” such as the Garrison House. Diane said the building is standing because of years of people paying attention to it.

Hearing no new business topics, the President briefly recessed the meeting prior to commencement of the Program.

14. Program. Robert G. Goodby, Ph.D., professor of Anthropology and Honors Program Director at Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, N.H., spent the last 35 years studying the history of the Abenaki in northern New England. A past president of the New Hampshire Archaeological Society and former member of the New Hampshire Native American Affairs Commission, Professor Goodby provided a visual survey and discussion of Abenaki sites and structures that he had investigated, reviewing this important tribe's origins in geographic New England and its continued presence in New England today.

15. The meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m., and some attendees drove to the Duston Garrison House for tours.

Respectfully submitted,
David A. Dustin, Secretary

April 28, 2020