

Historic Deerfield



President Philip Zea
Retiring After 36 Years
in Deerfield

MemberNews

Spring/Summer 2021



Member Profile: Philip and Betsy Zea

Member interview with our member-in-chief, President Philip Zea and Historic Deerfield's best ambassador, his wife Betsy Zea. Phil is retiring at the end of May after a combined 36 years here.



Q: What are your first/favorite memories of Deerfield?

PZ: My first memories of Deerfield are family trips to visit my aunt down in Springfield in the mid-50s, and dad pulling off Rtes. 5 and 10 to see all of the old houses and huge elm trees along The Street. Little did we know...

BZ: So many good memories for me over 17 years! The Summer Fellows who come each year and often begin their career path right here, wreath making that starts the Christmas season (even this past year with COVID restrictions thanks to Julie Orvis), Patriots Day with its wonderful parade and thundering cry, "The British Are Coming!" And most of all, the annual Christmas party at the Dickinson House and the chance to see everyone with family and friends.

Q: How did you get interested in museums?

PZ: My dad, among other things, is the longest serving town clerk in New Hampshire history at 58 years. (He just couldn't say no, I guess!) So I grew up with the importance of record keeping and their preservation. He was also an excellent cabinetmaker so I learned about the concept of process analysis in the shop, not that we called it that. I think that we called it work. Finally, my mother's folks were both museum curators in New York and Springfield but in natural history rather than cultural history. I am blessed to have been introduced to museum work as a Summer Fellow here at Historic Deerfield in 1973 and to have had the chance to work with all kinds of great people at HD not once but twice for a total of 36 years.



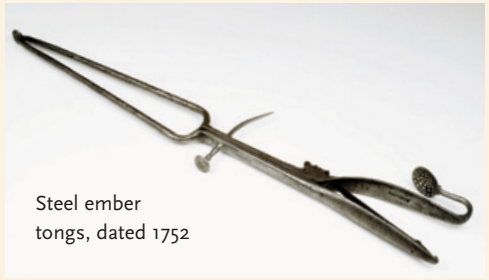
Q: What are your favorite pieces in our collections?

PZ: Generally, my favorites are the documented objects that illustrate the idea of pursuing refinement in rural New England—a major theme at HD. Honestly, what is cooler than the steel ember tongs made by Col. Seth Pomeroy of Northampton for the Lyman family dated 1752.

Q: What is your favorite house and why?

PZ: My favorite house is the Frary House because (1) it smells right for an old house, and, (2) because it teaches the merger of the Colonial Revival with the Arts and Crafts Movement when Deerfield was run by women. My second favorite place is the Memorial Libraries. Like all of Deerfield, it is just amazing what is there on both the HD and PVMA sides.

BZ: The Dickinson House, of course, where we have been privileged and happy to be among the stewards of this great house.



Steel ember tongs, dated 1752

Q: What are your thoughts about living at the Dickinson House? What are the worst and best aspects of living on campus?

PZ: There is no downside to living on campus. Actually, it is better because it is more efficient overall and more convenient to sharing Deerfield, which is the most fun. The Dickinson House is a great, old house if you happen to like old houses...

Q: What was your favorite Members Trip?

PZ: All Friends of Historic Deerfield trips are my favorite because everyone had a great time and we arrived back safe and sound. Overall N'Orlins is my favorite trip because the Big Easy is such an intracultural, cosmic place. My favorite event on a Deerfield Trip is the boat ride under the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. We blew away even the people who live there on that one.

Q: Can you tell us about your Deerfield Descendant family connections?

PZ: Genetic engineering in the Connecticut River Valley means that if you “scratch one cousin, they all bleed.” My mother’s family has lived along the Great River since English settlement began, including members of the Field family here in Deerfield.

Q: What’s your favorite meal at Champney’s?

PZ: The next one.

Q: What makes HD special?

PZ: Deerfield is the epitome of a layered cultural experience driven by authenticity and beauty in just about any aspect of history and the humanities that you can imagine because all different kinds of people have lived here for 10,000–12,000 years. That’s a long time.

BZ: We are so thankful for the many talented people: founders, trustees, staff, and volunteers who share the very important message of Historic Deerfield and its place in American history.



Q: Can you briefly discuss your passion for land preservation?

PZ: Land preservation is critical everywhere and certainly in Deerfield. Betsy and I are members of several land trusts between New England and North Carolina. The stomach understands because we have to eat and because our food chains in the U.S. are way too long to sustain us in bad circumstances. The eye understands because both productive and undisturbed land is beautiful. The soul understands because scenery is divine.

Strawberry Fool

Strawberry Fool is a traditional English dessert from the 1600s made from strawberries, whipped cream (some versions use custard instead of whipped cream) and sugar. Yummy!

The strawberry is a symbol of spring in the Northeast because it is one of the first fruits to ripen and be available in the growing season. Local strawberries are not only sweet and delicious, but good for you too as they are full of antioxidants, folate, potassium, vitamin C and fiber. Traditional New England varieties, known as June Bearers, respond to the short days of spring by blooming and setting fruit, but are available for just two to three short weeks.

The strawberry is native to North America and Indigenous peoples used them in many dishes. Some Native Americans even celebrate the harvest of this fruit with a Strawberry Thanksgiving. Enjoy their delicious sweetness while you can with this Strawberry Fool recipe!

Ingredients:

- 3 cups strawberries (hulled and cut into quarters)
- ½ tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract (optional)
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 tbsps powdered sugar

Instructions:

- In a saucepan, combine and mix well the strawberries with sugar, lemon juice, and the vanilla extract. After mixing, let it sit for approximately 15 minutes.
- Bring the mix to a boil and then reduce heat to simmer. Cook the mix for 10 minutes, allowing the strawberries to soften and the juice to reduce to a syrupy liquid.
- Remove the pan from the heat, transfer to a bowl, and let it cool completely (you can also put in the refrigerator).
- On medium-high, beat the heavy cream until it forms soft peaks, then add the 2 tablespoons of powdered sugar and continue beating until you have stiff peaks.
- Place a layer of the strawberry compote in the bottom of your serving glass or jar, followed by a layer of whipped cream. Make as many layers as you want or your serving glass allows.
- Serve immediately or refrigerate.





Welcome New and Rejoining Members

A warm welcome to the 112 New Member and 22 Rejoining Member Households between March 1, 2020 and March 1, 2021. We are delighted to include you in the Friends of Historic Deerfield!

Bob and Becky Alexander **

Madelon Ali

Janet Alpert

Hope Alswang

Caroline Alyea

John Anderson, Jr.

Geoffrey and Katheryne Baker

Katherine and John Bardzik

Diann Benti

Matthew Blanchard

Susan Branson

Susan Brassard

Amy Brenner-Fricke *

Kelsey Brow

W. Steven Burke

Linda Callison *

Margaret Carsley

Linda Casey

Mary Chapman

Mauri Coover

Michael Davey

Mary Lou Davis

Viola Decoigne *

Ann DeFeo

Michelle Dempsey

Patrick Derosier

Helen Dimos

Casey Donnelly

Lorrie Eastwick

Lynda Faye

Les Fossel

Anne Foster

Bob Frishman and Jeanne Schinto

Ruthann Geiss

Margaret Geiss-Mooney

Llewellyn Goodfield

Alexis Goodin

Gretchen Goodwillie

Holly Goss-Betts, MPS. RD.

David Grieve

Edwin S. Grosvenor

Kirsten Hammerstrom

Deborah Haraldson

Colleen Harris *

Joan Hatch

Morrison and Fenella Heckscher

Julia Hendon

Sara Holmes

Robert and Stephanie Hood

Paul Houston

Esther Hugenberger

Rhonda Hungerford

Ann Huse

Heather Huyck

Elinor Janvrin

Ann R. Jones

Elise Junn

Virginia Karparis

Dana Karuza

Donna Keesling

John Kelly

Silas Kopf

William Lanford

Elise Langan

Rachel Lavery

Alice Lord

Chandra Lothian

Louise Lucht

Jessica Striebel Maclean

Janet Marquardt

Betsy Mathews

William McGinn

Danielle McKahn

Leslie Melvin

Deborah Mero

John Millett

Scott Mitchell

Donna Mollard

Donald E. Moreau

John-Eric Nelson

Elaine Nichols

Christopher Ohrstrom

Laura Parrish

Barbara Pelissier

Sally Phillips *

Michael Potaski

Lori Lyn Price

Carolyn Ravenscroft

Pamela Reid

Jennifer Remillard *

Letitia Roberts

Dorothy Robinson

Geoffrey and Andrea Rogers

Constance Rubinstein

Denise Rueb

Louisa Sandsmark *

Ana Santos Restivo

Pamela Schaible

Nick Schmansky

Kelsy Sinelnikov

Faye Snyder

William Solomon

Wunderley Stauder

Doreen and Al Stevens

Adam and Melissa Stoffolano

Meg Sweeney

Lynn Turcotte

Laurie Wadworth

Lauren Walker

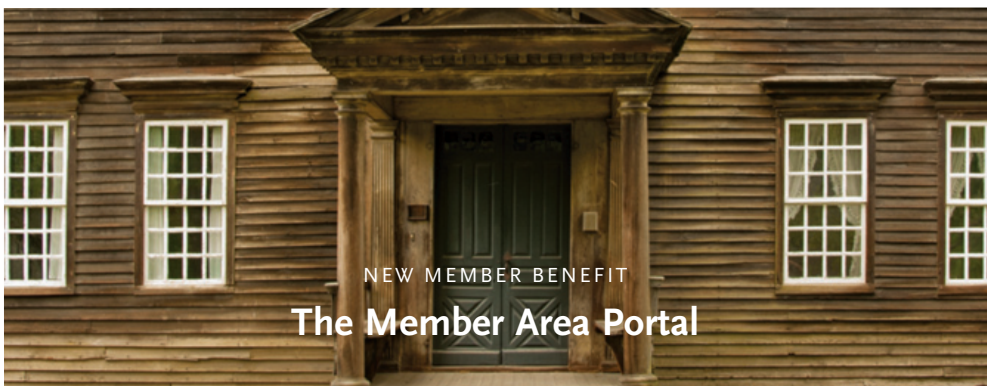
Carolyn Webb

Leslie Weston

Mary Winston

* Deerfield Descendant

** Asher Benjamin Society



NEW MEMBER BENEFIT

The Member Area Portal

To show our appreciation to you and all the members of the Friends of Historic Deerfield we have created the Historic Deerfield Member Portal!

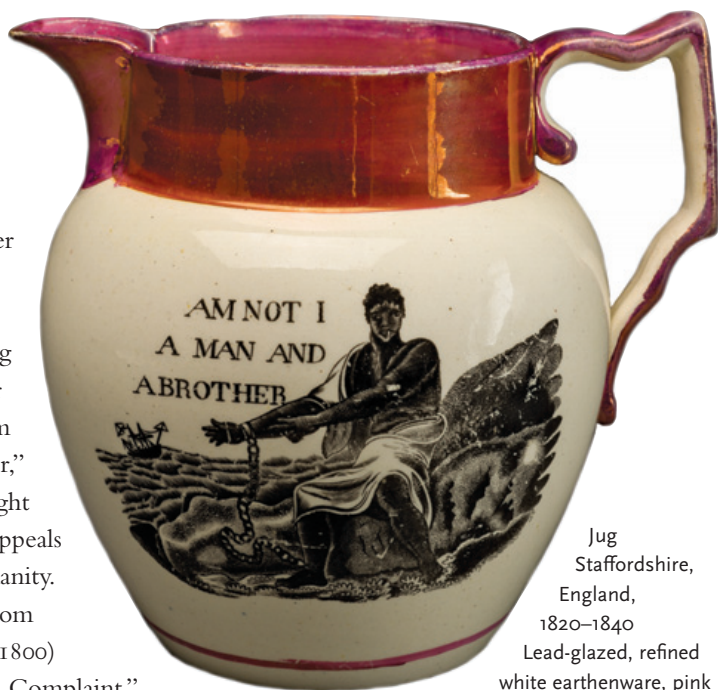
The Member Portal is a treasure trove of online content available exclusively to our members—videos, publications, resources and more! Watch behind-the-scenes videos of our houses and collections, try a recipe from past issues of our *Member News*, read back issues of the esteemed *Historic Deerfield* magazine, and download an Historic Deerfield Zoom background. Did you happen to miss Allison Williams Bell's

presentation, *Following The Captives' Trail*? No problem—it's available on the new Member Portal!

All new, rejoining, and renewing members will receive an email invitation with instructions on how to establish your password and access this exclusive feature. Many members are already enjoying this new feature, but if you haven't received this email, please check your spam folder. Or if you need further assistance, please send an email to membership@historic-deerfield.org. We will continue to add content too, so be sure to check back often for new additions!

On View at the Flynt Center

Criticisms levelled against England's participation in the slave trade grew louder by the late 18th century, and were expressed in a variety of media, including ceramics. This pink luster jug's bold inscription, "Am not I a Man and a Brother," draws attention to the plight of enslaved persons, and appeals to people's common humanity. The jug contains verses from William Cowper's (1731–1800) 1788 poem, "The Negro's Complaint," which serves to further emphasize the sufferings of the enslaved, as well as the unjust system of slavery as a whole.



Jug
Staffordshire,
England,
1820–1840
Lead-glazed, refined
white earthenware, pink
luster (lusterware), overglaze
black enamel, transfer print
Museum Collections Fund,
2019.45

Tickets to the Past

Did you know the Memorial Libraries collection documents early travel in New England?

At right is a 1780s bill for dinner and passage from Hartford to Suffield from Reuben Sikes, a blacksmith and Revolutionary War veteran who established the first successful stage and mail route in the region.

Ferries have operated on the Connecticut River since the 1640s. Below is an 1831 ticket from a steam boat company which gives the bearer 20 miles of travel on board company boats. This item and other travel-related material are accessible in our library collections.

Visit historic-deerfield.org/libraries to access our online catalog, subject guides, and finding aids.

REUBEN SIKES, SUFFIELD,	
Breakfast,	3
Dinner,	2
Supper,	2
Lodging,	2
Liquor,	2
Servants,	2
Horses to Hay	2
Quarts Oats,	2
Seat in the Stage from Hartford to Suffield	14
Baggage,	3
Total £.	46 6



Shop the Museum Store Online

Did you know you can shop the Historic Deerfield Museum Gift Shop & Bookstore online? Check out the hundreds of items available, from books to gifts, toys and games, home décor and more.

Visit historic-deerfield.org and click on "Store." As a Historic Deerfield Member, you save 10% on your purchase. Use the code MEMBER at checkout.

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2021 Season Begins May 29

We are looking forward to seeing our members in person when the museum opens for the season on Memorial Day weekend. Starting Saturday, May 29, the museum will be open Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Monday holidays from 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Join us for broom-making demonstrations, walking tours, archaeological discoveries, and much more!

Visit historic-deerfield.org for a list of upcoming events, to plan your visit, and purchase admission tickets.



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with us:



On the cover: Historic Deerfield President and CEO Philip Zea holding an 18th-century salmon gig, HD94.012.1, from *Arts & Antiques* magazine, January 1995.