



DARTMOUTH HERITAGE MUSEUM'S  
**THE GAZETTE**  
 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



DHM.1974.050.032



SKETCH OF QUAKER HOUSE BY MARGARET VAN GURP, DHM 2012.36.1

This edition will put the spotlight on Quaker House. Originally the home of William Ray, a cooper (barrel maker), the house is considered the oldest standing structure in Dartmouth. Quaker House is restored and furnished to reflect its 1785 construction date.

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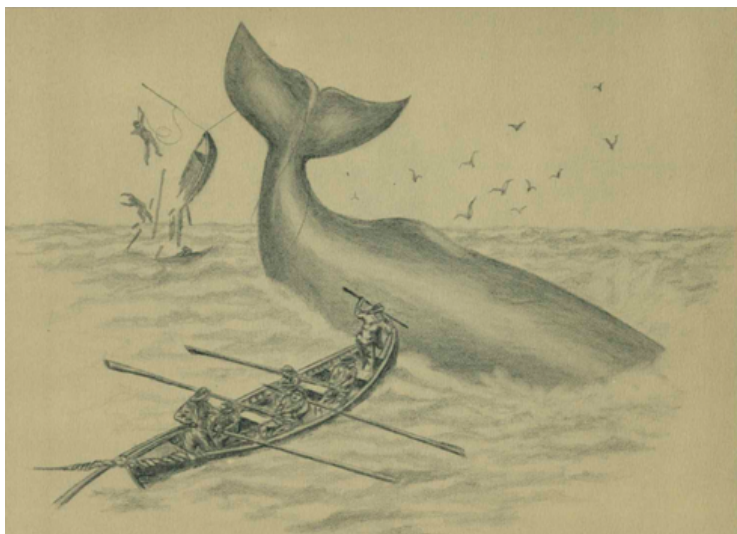
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## WHALING FOR WORK: AN ARDUOUS CETACEAN VOCATION

BY AMANDA FURNISS

Imagine this: risking your life each and every day, potentially drowning in the freezing cold sea at the hands (or rather, fins) of a mighty beast— just to have enough money to support your family. Also, you probably don't see your family for years at a time, but that's just a part of the job. Then, when it seems that things couldn't get possibly worse, your livelihood is jeopardized by expensive exporting fees. At this point, you might begin to ask yourself: "what am I going to do?", "where am I going to go?", and most importantly, "why am I doing this to myself?"

Welcome to the world of 18th century whaling.



*S. Lynn Lloyd print showing whalers lancing a whale, with some men falling in water while their boat is capsizing, c. 1979. DHM 1979.050.014*

Products manufactured from whaling were a hot commodity in the 18th century. Many of these resources were shipped from American colonies into England. But after the American Revolutionary War (19 April 1775 – 3 September 1783), the colonies secured their independence from the British Crown and imposed expensive tariffs on goods leaving the newly-formed country. Thus, American whalers with an international market needed to sell their products from somewhere else. As they would soon find out, a small community in Nova Scotia would turn out to be the perfect solution.

Many Quaker families from Nantucket Island, Massachusetts began to settle in Dartmouth beginning in 1785. The community soon became a



*Halifax Harbour from the Dartmouth Shore c. 1775. Oil, canvas, signed & dated, A.T. Barrett, 1871. DHM 1966.001.010*

centre of whaling industry and activity. As a British colony, Nova Scotia had no tariffs for exported goods which made it a perfect place for whaling. The Nantucket Whaling Company began in Dartmouth in the same year, with a factory located along King Street. The factory manufactured products made from spermaceti— a wax-like substance produced by a small organ in the head of sperm whales. The lightbulb would still not be invented for another 100 years, so whale oil and spermaceti candles were an important part of everyday life. This universal need for lighting fuel across the British Empire is what made the whaling industry so lucrative across the world.



*Hand-dipped spermaceti candles. DHM 1985.031.010*

But that's not all— many other essential and everyday products were manufactured from whales. Whale oil made from blubber was used for polishes, varnishes, cosmetics, and mechanical lubricants. A rare substance found in the intestines of sperm whales, ambergris, was used in fine perfumes and scented products.



*Continued on page 6*



# COLLECTIONS CORNER

## THE TALE OF A WHALE'S EYE

BY SHANNON BAXTER

Many visitors who have visited Quaker House over the years likely pondered over a mysterious canvas bag in the aptly named Whaling Room. If willing to take a peek, it will be revealed that a large eye would be peeking right back at you.

Lovingly nicknamed “Blinkey” by summer staff, the eye came from a Sei (pronounced ‘say’) whale, the third largest rorqual (baleen whales) in the world, after the blue whale and fin whale. Smaller jars are also on display in the room, containing a small octopus, krill, and the beak of a squid. It is believed that these were the stomach contents of the same whale that Blinkey came from.



"Blinkey" the Sei whale eye at Quaker House

Recently I came across some writing in the museum's records that informed me of who donated the eye and how. During the summer of 1971, a student with the Department of Fisheries was working at the Karlsen Whaling Plant, in Blandford Nova Scotia. Karlsen & Co. Ltd started in the sealing business in 1948, starting in New Harbour Nova

Scotia. It wasn't until 1964 that they officially began a whaling business in Blandford, where between 1966 and 1972 they processed 2,115 whales. The sei whale population was dramatically affected by this period of whaling. According to the Committee on the status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) it is believed that 800 sei whales were taken just within that six-year period. It is unclear whether those numbers were solely from the Karlsen Whaling Plant or if other whaling industries were involved.

The Federal Government of Canada's total ban on whaling in 1972 meant that the business would have to pivot. The plant was used to process herring, mackerel, salmon and squid until its closure in 1999. As of 2019, sei whales have been designated as an endangered species in Canada, with fewer than 1,000 mature whales having been recorded since 2016. This means that the whale that Blinkey came from was one of the last to be officially hunted in Canada.

The student was able to keep the sei whale eye and some of the stomach contents. In the end it was their parents who called the Dartmouth Heritage Museum and offered it as a donation to be on display at Quaker House, which would have just been established as a museum in 1971.

The smaller jars were originally filled with formaldehyde, but in 2005 the samples were taken to the Nova Scotia Museum to be changed to an alcohol based liquid. They, along with Blinkey, have been on display ever since.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Quaker House was closed to the public as it was too small of a space for social distancing to be safely done. Quaker House reopened for the summer months last year in 2022. During that time, it was discovered that Blinkey and the three jars were in desperate need of more preservation liquid. I contacted Dr. Brenna Frasier, the Curator of Zoology at the Nova Scotia Museum, who assured me that they would once again be able to help with this process as the museum had done nearly 20 years ago.

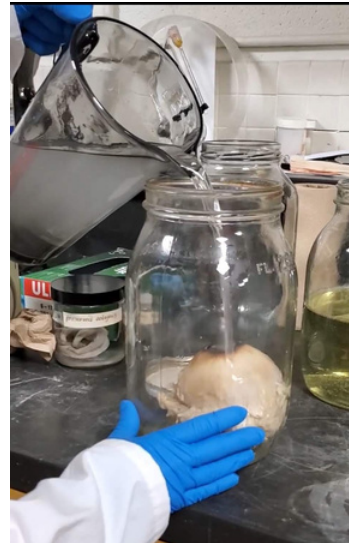


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## THE TALE OF A WHALE'S EYE, CONTINUED

It was quite the trip over to Halifax, our Manager-Curator Joanne driving the two of us over to the Museum of Natural History while I held Blinkey in my lap! Covered in the canvas bag, of course, not to get any odd looks from fellow commuters on the MacDonald Bridge. Having never worked in a natural history museum, it was an honour and a delight to take a look behind the scenes as Dr. Brenna Frasier refilled each specimen jar with a solution of ethanol. She even kindly resealed the tops of the jars with a wax-like tape to ensure that extra security for the specimens within.

Blinkey is looking much happier now at Quaker House. We keep the jar covered in the canvas bag so that visitors have a little bit of preparation before seeing it. This year, we decided to further immortalize Blinkey by including them as part of the small sticker set inspired by artifacts in the museum's collection. I had the pleasure of drawing each sticker design, and hope that visitors find as much delight in them that we do!



Left: Dr. Brenna Frasier, Curator of Zoology at the Museum of Natural History, topping up Blinkey's fluids.



Right: Blinkey immortalized as a sticker, designed by Shannon Baxter, Collections Manager. Available in our gift shop for \$3.

## SHOES IN THE WALL

During restoration at Quaker House in 1991, five women's shoes were discovered at the bottom of a wall cavity in a bedroom upstairs. According to a shoe restorer at the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto in 1991, the shoes may have been left in the walls as a sort of fertility rite. It was custom among poorer families, especially in England, to leave the well-worn shoes of women in walls to bring fertility or to ward off misadventure. Shoe concealment is probably one of the most common post-Medieval superstitious practices. Why shoes, well-worn ones in particular? Some believe that the shoe holds the imprint of a person more so than any other object, and so contains the spirit of the wearer. The first owner of Quaker House was William Ray, who had four daughters and two sons. The shoes date to the 1780s to 1800, when the Ray family occupied the house. The five shoes are on display at Quaker House.



Five well-worn women's shoes found in the wall at Quaker House DHM1991.027.010-014



# EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

by Dartmouth Heritage Museum

## QUAKER HOUSE TINTYPE POP-UP

**SATURDAY JUNE 24TH 2023**

**QUAKER HOUSE - 57 OCHTERLONEY STREET  
WITH ALANAH CORREIA - BOOKING REQUIRED**

ALANAH CORREIA WILL BE AT QUAKER HOUSE TAKING PHOTOS USING THE WET PLATE COLLODION PROCESS (TIN TYPE), A PROCESS THAT PHOTOGRAPHERS USED IN THE MID 1800S. BOOK YOUR TIME ON HER WEBSITE [HTTPS://CORREIAPHOTO.COM/BOOK](https://correiaphoto.com/book)

## ROSEMARY LAWTON PERFORMANCE

**SUNDAY JULY 9TH 2023**

**2PM AT EVERGREEN HOUSE  
TICKETS REQUIRED**

CELTIC VIOLINIST, SINGER, AND SONGWRITER ROSEMARY LAWTON WILL BE PERFORMING IN THE RED PARLOUR AT EVERGREEN. SHE WILL BE JOINED BY MUSICIAN CLARE FOLLETT. LIMITED SEATING. TICKETS ARE \$25 CALL THE MUSEUM FOR DETAILS 902-464-2300 OR VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.CA/E/ROSEMARY-LAWTON-AT-THE-DARTMOUTH-HERITAGE-MUSEUM-TICKETS-662967663127](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/rosemary-lawton-at-the-dartmouth-heritage-museum-tickets-662967663127)

## PRIDE TEA

**SATURDAY JULY 15TH 2023**

**EVERGREEN HOUSE - 1PM TO 4PM  
ADMISSION BY DONATION**

DROP IN AT EVERGREEN FOR A RAINBOW THEMED TEA PARTY TO CELEBRATE PRIDE.

## HISTORIC PLACES DAYS

**JULY 8TH-23RD 2023**

**QUAKER HOUSE & EVERGREEN HOUSE**

CELEBRATE THE HISTORIC PLACES AND STORIES AROUND US. THIS YEAR, WE HAVE CREATED A BROCHURE HIGHLIGHTING THE HISTORY OF LAND THAT THESE HISTORIC HOUSES ARE BUILT ON. FROM MI'KMAQ LAND USE TO NATIVE PLANTS, THERE IS MORE TO OUR STORY. FOLLOW ALONG ON OUR FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM ACCOUNTS.

## NEW EXHIBITS AT QUAKER HOUSE

**UNTIL AUGUST 25TH 2023**

**QUAKER HOUSE**

QUAKER HOUSE HAS NEW EXHIBIT PANELS THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE! SEE NEW ARTIFACTS ON DISPLAY IN THE DARTMOUTH ROOM. IF YOU MISSED IT LAST YEAR, VISIT THE NEW CRAIG PHOTOGRAPH GALLERY. THE QUAKER ROOMS ARE STILL THERE WITH A FEW UPDATES. QUAKER HOUSE IS A MUST SEE!

All events & exhibits are located at Evergreen House, 26 Newcastle St, Dartmouth, unless otherwise stated.

For full details on events, please check out our website for the most up-to-date info! Trouble finding info? Just give us a call or send an email! Contact details on back page.

# WHALING FOR WORK: AN ARDUOUS CETACEAN VOCATION, *CONTINUED*

Rather than teeth, some species of whales have plates in their mouths used for filter-feeding. These plates, known as baleen, are hard yet flexible, and can be melted and molded like plastic. Processed baleen, commonly referred to as whalebone, was used for corset boning, umbrella ribs, carriage wheel spokes, brush bristles, and much more.

In just six years of operation (1785 - 1791), the Nantucket Whaling Company sold £30 000 British Pounds worth of products. That is the equivalent of just under \$12 000 000 Canadian Dollars today. In fact, the Nantucket Whaling Company in Dartmouth was so lucrative that the English proposed a *small* change: the Quakers should leave Dartmouth and settle in Wales instead (no pun intended) to begin whaling there. This way, the extra cost and time from importing products could be further reduced. By 1791, many of the Dartmouth Quakers left for Wales, and took their knowledge and skills of whaling along with them. Although some Quaker families would still remain in the community, the Nantucket Whaling Company of Dartmouth was no more.



Silk floral purse with whalebone edges, c. mid-1800's.  
DHM 1996.002.194



Baleen plate from a blue whale. DHM 976.044.

## JACKSON HOUSE/QUAKER HOUSE PLAQUE UNVEILING IN 1969



Mr. Ralph Morton, Mayor R. Thornhill DHM1993.015.1366



Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Jackson, Mr. Morton DHM1993.015.1368



# QUAKER HOUSE RECOGNIZED AS A PROVINCIAL HERITAGE PROPERTY IN 1986

Quaker House was built in 1786 and lived in by William Ray and his family. The Jackson family would own the house from 1849 to 1971. In 1971, the house was purchased by the former City of Dartmouth after being approached by local groups who were concerned with the loss of heritage buildings in Dartmouth.

George W. Jackson owned the house at 57 Ochterloney Street from 1849 to 1899. William J. Jackson owned Quaker House from 1899 to 1920. Clarence Jackson owned Quaker House from 1920 to 1962 and, finally, Kenneth Jackson owned Quaker House from 1962 until 1971 when it was bought by the former City of Dartmouth.

*Unveiling of Provincial Plaque at Quaker House - August 3, 1986: town crier Rod Collyer, Quaker House guides & Queen of Lakes DHM1986.057.010*



## MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE MYSTERY

BY MIRREN TREVORS

There are many mysteries in museum collections. Whether it's the provenance of any particular item, what it was used for, or even what connection it has to the museum, there are many things that we just don't know about many of the items in our collection. One of these such mysteries is a marriage certificate from a Quaker marriage in London, England, dated May 23, 1717, which was, as far as we know, found inside Quaker House sometime between 1962 and 1978.

At a glance, the only thing connecting the marriage certificate to Dartmouth is that the marriage was between two members of the Quaker community in London. I found this incredibly enticing and made it my mission for the next few weeks to get to the bottom of how a marriage certificate made its way into a house that was constructed almost 70 years after the certificate was dated.

To begin, I gathered as much information as I could find about the bride and groom, as well as where the marriage took place. The marriage between Joseph Nicholson and Anne Roberts was recorded in a monthly meeting of the Society of Friends at Peel's Court, John Street, Westminster in London, England.

Joseph Nicholson was a carpenter and the son of Michael Nicholson, who was also a carpenter in the civil parish of St. Clement Danes, Westminster. Anne Roberts was a shopkeeper from the civil parish of St. Andrews Holborn in Middlesex, and the daughter of James Roberts, an ironmonger from the same parish. Unfortunately, this is where the certainties end, for this particular artefact. With absolutely no leads to go off of, I set out to find what I could about the Roberts and Nicholson family trees, and any possible connection they could have to Dartmouth and Quaker House.

It may not surprise you to hear that my research into the respective Nicholson and Roberts family trees was largely inconclusive, which is mainly owing to the scarcity and quality of records kept and available from the early 1700s. However, I was able to find references to Joseph Nicholson taking a 7-year-long apprenticeship with a man named John Sladder in minute book records of the London Carpenter's Company in 1701, which does correlate nicely to the occupation and date listed on the 1717 marriage license. Unfortunately, very little information about John Sladder is available aside from his membership with the Carpenter's Company.



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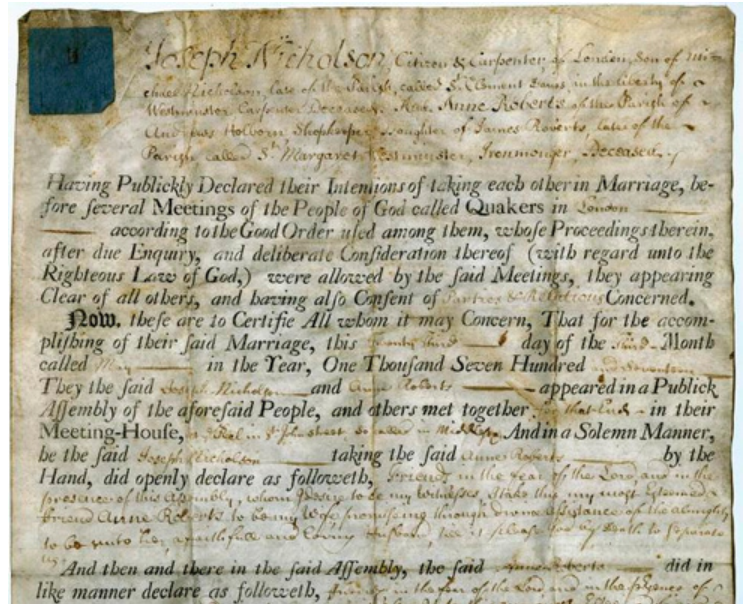
My next step was to figure out if there was any relation between the names on the certificate and the Nantucket Quakers who came to Dartmouth in 1785. With no clear connections between the Quaker families who originally settled Dartmouth and either Roberts or Nicholson, I decided to look up shipping logs from merchant vessels or whaling ships that did business in Dartmouth, Nantucket, and London. While the Nantucket Historical Association provided some promising records, including the whaling vessel London, which was stationed out of London, England and sailed the waters of the South Pacific between 1794 and 1799, only a small amount of information could be gleaned from the actual digitized logs, which were quite faded and showed a great deal of wear from over 200 years of use.

I decided to turn to the list of witnesses written at the bottom of the certificate. Although many of the names were smudged or faded beyond recognition, 28 names were easily discernable, and 8 of those were listed as “relations”.

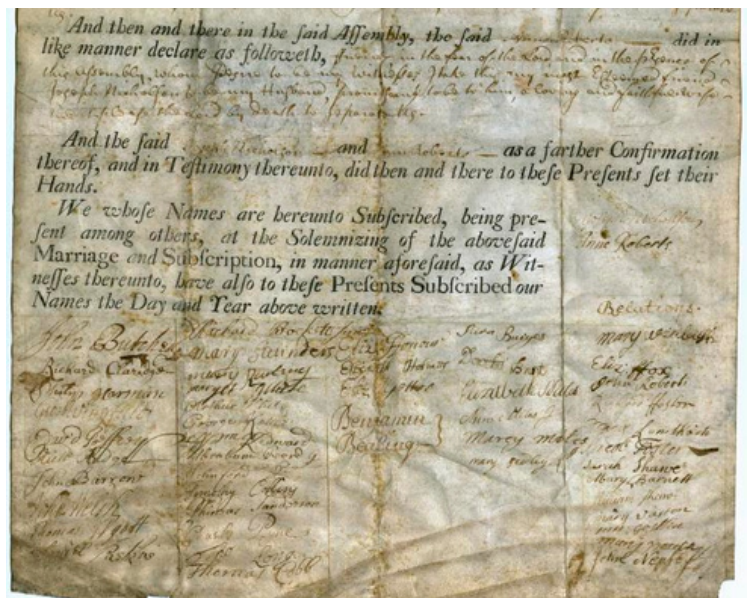
With these, I ran into the same issue as before; very few records are available if they exist at all, and I only managed to find information about two witnesses, Eliz Fox and Richard Foster. Eliz Fox was married to a John Harris in the civil parish of St. Clement Danes, before 1716 when John Harris died, and Richard Foster married an Elizabeth Waite in Middlesex, London, on December 6th , 1715. Information on the other witnesses listed on the certificate was either unavailable or inconclusive.

I searched cemetery records from Nantucket Island for any similarities in family names, to try and figure out a timeline for how the marriage license could have made its way across the Atlantic. Unfortunately, many of the grave markers on Nantucket Island have been lost or destroyed, and many graves had no markers to begin with; this left the burial records from this area and time period quite sparse and mostly incomplete. The Founder’s Burial Ground memorializes 10 of Nantucket’s first European settlers, including early members of the Folger, Starbuck, and Coffin families that would later settle in what is now Dartmouth. The Lost Quaker Cemetery occupies approximately one acre of land near the Founder’s Burial Ground and was used between 1711 and 1760. The precise location of this cemetery is impossible to find now, due to the intentional lack of grave markers, and very few burial records before the early 19th century have survived.

There is a strong possibility that instead of being brought over by one of the families involved in the Quaker whaling industry, the certificate was brought across the Atlantic by some other means and then purchased at an estate sale or auction. I was able to put together detailed information about two groups of people on opposite sides of the Atlantic, but I was unable to find any connection between the two. It is a disappointing outcome, but it is not at all uncommon, especially when you’re working with a document that was made over 300 years ago. Perhaps more information will turn up in the future, but at the moment, the mystery of the Quaker marriage certificate will remain just that.



Quaker Marriage Certificate, front DHM 1978.072.001

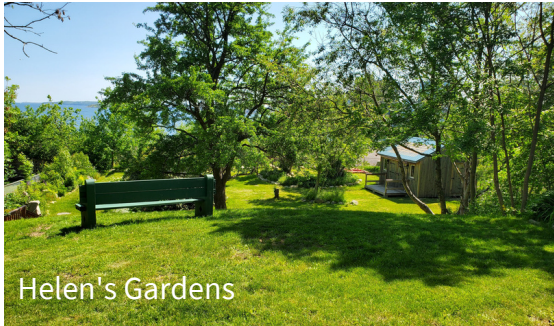


Quaker Marriage Certificate, back DHM 1978.072.001





# EVERGREEN RENTALS



Helen's Gardens



Reference Library



Red Parlour



Sun Porch



Green Parlour

Did you know the Dartmouth Heritage Museum has room rentals for small events and gatherings? Are you looking for a charming space, full of historic character AND a fantastic view of the harbour? Evergreen may be the space for you! This glorious mid-Victorian manor was a family residence before being restored and converted into a museum. Since then, the house has played host to several movies and television shows, including *The Lizzie Borden Chronicles* and *Chapelwaite*, a Stephen King inspired series. Currently, for private functions, we rent out rooms in the museum for small events, as the Victorian charm also comes with limited space. In the warmer months, there are also the Gardens. Directly behind the house, the sloping green hill rolls down to a lovely garden complete with stone fences and a gorgeously blooming rhododendron. Reach out to us directly or head over to our website under "facility rental" !

## Standard Pricing\*:

**Private booking: \$20.00/hour**

*For individual booking such as baby showers*

**Non-Profit booking : \$25.00/hour**

*For booking from non-profit or other charity organisations*

**Corporate booking: \$30.00/hour**

*For government, for-profit companies and others*

*\*Pricing current at time of printing, based on a per room basis.  
For the most up-to-date pricing and availability please visit our website.*



# GIFT SHOP SPOTLIGHT

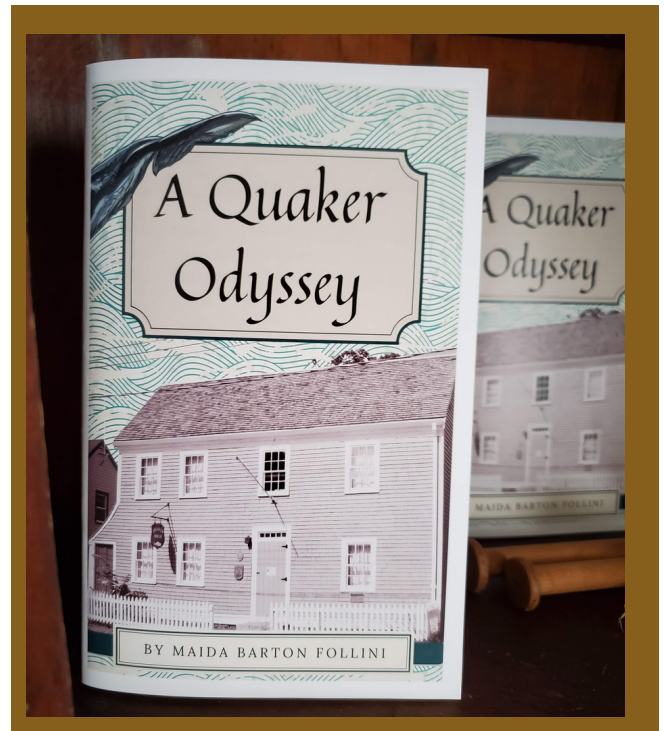
The Quaker House gift corner offers a selection of local items. Cash only.



Above: Stickers, designed by Collections Manager Shannon Baxter, based on artifacts in our collection. These stickers showcase Blinkey the sei whale eye and a whale representing the Quaker whalers. (\$3)



Above: Quaker House Cards designed by Olivia Martin, local crafter. (\$6)



Right: A Quaker Odyssey by Maida Barton Follini (\$15)



# DHMS MEMBERSHIP

## We have 3 categories of membership:

- **Individual Membership** is for one (1) person  
Price: \$20
- **Family Membership** is for a family unit, consisting of at least one (1) adult and one child under the age of eighteen (18)  
Price: \$30
- **Group Membership** is for societies, museums, universities, libraries, corporations, firms, partnerships, foundations and governmental departments.  
Price: Please Contact

### Why become a member?

The Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society operates the Dartmouth Heritage Museum on behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality, which owns both historic houses and the collection. This allows interested community members to have a real and impactful voice in what happens with the DHM. One of the easiest ways to use your voice is by attending and voting at our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Society members have the right to vote for Board Director nominees and on changes to the Bylaws, both of which have incredible influence on the Society and the museum itself.

### Membership Opportunities and Benefits:

- Voting! Society members have the right to vote on important issues at each Annual General Meeting.
- A 10% discount from the gift shop. This discount is applied by our staff in-person with a valid membership card, or online by using your unique discount code. Please contact museum staff for any help needed with this process.
- Early-bird access to event tickets. This includes popular events such as our Murder Mystery Nights, exhibit openings, and more!
- Discounts on events and activities. In addition to the ability to purchase tickets early, we often have deals and discounts for members.



## DHMS Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type:	Annual Fee	# of years	Total
Individual	\$20.00		
Family	\$30.00		
Donation (tax receipts are issued for donations)			

Cheques should be made out to:

Dartmouth Heritage Museum Society, 26 Newcastle St, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 3M5

May we have your permission to add your email to our mailing list? (This mailing list is used to send updates about our news and upcoming events, as well as send out our quarterly newsletter)    Yes \_\_\_\_\_    No \_\_\_\_\_

May we use your name in public recognition of our donors?    Yes \_\_\_\_\_    No \_\_\_\_\_

# The Dartmouth Heritage Museum

*"We commit to engagement, education, and storytelling."*

## Quaker House

57 Ochterloney St  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Hours:

July-August

Wed-Sun

10am-5pm



## Evergreen House

26 Newcastle St  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Hours:

Sept-May

Tues-Fri

10am-5pm

June-Aug

Tues-Sun

10am-5pm



Sugar loaves like this were how sugar was purchased in the eighteenth century. The sugar would be broken off the cone using a sugar hammer or sugar nippers. Sugar plantations in the Caribbean, where Nova Scotia got its sugar, have a strong and brutal connection to the Atlantic slave trade.

## CONTACT US

26 Newcastle St  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
Canada B2Y 3M5  
[www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca](http://www.dartmouthheritagemuseum.ns.ca)  
902-464-2300  
[info@dartmouthmuseum.ca](mailto:info@dartmouthmuseum.ca)



## A Quaker Recipe - Rhubarb Pie

Peel the stalks, cut them in small pieces, and stew them till very soft in a little water; when done, mash, and sweeten with sugar; set it away to cool; make a puff paste, and bake as other pies. Some prefer it without strewing sugar over them before the crust is put on. These pies will lose their fine flavor after the first day. They take less sugar than gooseberries.

From *A Quaker Woman's Cookbook: The Domestic Cookery of Elizabeth Ellicott Lea* by William Woys Weaver (pg. 87)