



Fall 2008

THE ALDEN HOME



AKA President, Linda J. Osborne and AKA Board Secretary, Barbara Itz

On Saturday, August 2, 2008 the Alden Kindred of America gathered for our 107th Annual Reunion. The weather was warm, sunny and comfortable as we all enjoyed meeting and getting re-acquainted with our cousins for most of the day. Also featured was a silent auction, raffles and tours of the Alden House Historic Site, which on October 6th was officially designated as a National Historic Landmark! It is only one of three "Landmarks" on the south shore! We are truly excited and honored and looking forward to celebrations in 2009. Save the first Saturday in August for our 108th Annual Reunion!



The youngest attendee was Christopher Alden Wudyka (age 6) seated with his family. The middle picture is the Harbour Choral Society and on the right is the Family Group Picture for 2008 in front of the barn.

A very special note of thanks to member Marilyn Curtis of Newport, Rhode Island, for donations totaling \$600 to defray the cost of our new office printer and to distribute 20 copies of the Alden 8-Generation CD to libraries and genealogical societies. What a generous and thoughtful gift. Thank you, Marilyn! Other members who would like to make donations for items on our wish list, please feel free to e-mail aldenhouse@comcast.net!



Harbour Choral Society sang during the Annual luncheon. The patriotic ballads and Top 40 hits were a welcome addition to the Alden Kindred Reunion.

Window restoration project completed.



Old peeling window sashes have been re-glazed and restored. Each window is now in place, repainted, and fitted with ultraviolet filters.



The Alden Kindred of America, Inc.
P. O. Box 2754 (105 Alden Street)
Duxbury, MA 02331-2754
781-934-9092
FAX: 781-934-9149
E-mail aldenhouse@comcast.net
Web: www.alden.org
Hours: Monday-Saturday noon-4:00 (last tour at 3:30 pm)
Open mid-May through October 13, 2008
Off season tours may be arranged by calling 781-934-9092

Alden's Progress®
Alden Home©

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Contributing Editor: James Baker



Educational Programs at the Alden House in 2008

Alden House hosts Duxbury Public Schools' Grade 2 students & others.



The Alden House Historic Site hosts many educational programs. Pictured here is our Curator and Acting Executive Director, James Baker, demonstrating the use of an oil lamp. The Alden family used everything in the kitchen, including old oil, to fill these small lamps. Then, a wick made of cloth would be inserted in the top end and lit. This small flame would have saved on the use of a precious candle. The staff at the Alden House leads many group tours, including the entire Second Grade in the Duxbury Public Schools. We also had a large group of students from the Japanese School outside of New York City. We are developing more educational programs for children in the town and surrounding areas.

Hearty Holiday Red

A portion of the proceeds from your purchase will benefit the Alden House Historic Site, Duxbury, Massachusetts. www.alden.org

John Alden Merlot

Enjoy Alden Wine during your holidays
 Through a special arrangement with an on-line wine company, we are able to offer you fine quality Chilean wines for your Thanksgiving and Christmas pleasure — with unique Alden labels. This is a Limited Edition offer, so please take advantage of this special manner of honoring your Alden heritage. For every bottle of wine ordered, the AKA will receive a donation (exact amount depends on the number of bottles sold). Each wine costs \$19.99.

Serve John Alden Merlot or Priscilla Mullins Chardonnay (or both!) to your table this year, and remind your guests, the *Mayflower* was once a wine ship!

To order your holiday wine, just go to the Alden webpage and click on the link to www.customgrapes.com.

Holiday Harvest Gold

A portion of the proceeds from your purchase will benefit the Alden House Historic Site, Duxbury, Massachusetts. www.alden.org

Priscilla Mullins Chardonnay

Gas Card Raffle!!! — the AKA has just what you need to help with the “pain at the pump”.

A \$500 gas card has been generously donated to be used as a raffle to benefit the AKA. If just 100 of us buy one \$25 ticket, it will bring in \$2,500 to help our family organization. Increase your chances by buying two or more. Just make copies if you need more! Let's hope for 100% member participation! Thank you for your support.

AKA Gas Card Raffle Ticket

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

\$25/ticket

AKA Gas Card Raffle Ticket

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

\$25/ticket

AKA Gas Card Raffle Ticket

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

\$25/ticket

Mail raffle tickets to: Alden Kindred of America, Inc., P. O. Box 2754, Duxbury, MA 02331-2754

Dues Changes for 2009

The Executive Board has raised annual dues for 2009 to help cover increasing costs of providing services to members and of keeping the Alden House Historic Site open. Maintaining and administering a National Historic Landmark, and providing services for our almost 1700 members costs \$10,000 per month. Regular dues, admissions, and miscellaneous income never provide enough to keep a non-profit operation running. We rely on our members' support to sustain our Alden family association.

Individual Annual Dues will increase to \$30 (from \$25)

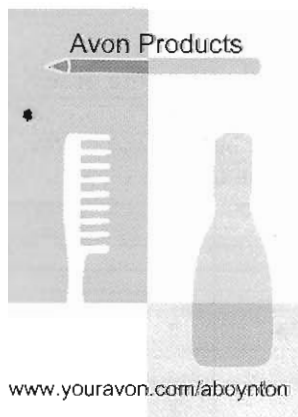
Family Annual Dues will increase to \$55 (from \$50)

In addition, **three new categories** of contributing dues have been established for those who are able to provide more support:

- **Storekeeper** (\$100) named in honor of "Storekeeper" John Alden, one of the 19th century owners of the Alden House and husband of the famous "Aunt Polly". This category entitles members to an Alden House decal and four free adult passes for the Alden House museum that you can give to friends and family who are visiting the Duxbury area.
- **Cooper** (\$250) named as a tribute to John Alden's occupation. This category includes two decals, four free adult passes to the museum, plus a 15% discount on purchases made by the member in Aunt Polly's Gift Shop or on the alden.org website (the regular member discount is 10%)
- **Landmark** (\$500) recognizes the designation of the Alden property as a National Landmark and includes four decals and four free adult passes to the museum, the 15% discount on purchases, and a set of books about the Aldens and the Alden House by Curator James W. Baker (*Harvest of the Years: The Alden Heritage in Pictures; Alden House History: A Work in Progress; and Aldens Return to England*).

NOTE! Members who upgrade their memberships to one of the new contributing categories will have their names placed in a raffle for a **LIFE MEMBERSHIP worth \$1,000!!!**

Every contributing member will be personally thanked and recognized in the newsletter. The portion of contributing dues above the regular dues rate is tax deductible. Your generosity will assure that the Alden Kindred remains strong to safeguard our Alden heritage well into the future. *Thank you.*

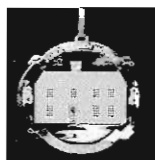


Ding-dong, Avon calling! The Alden Kindred of America and Avon are partnering for a fundraiser! Avon, the company for women, has been assisting organizations with their successful fund-raising efforts for years. The AKA can earn 30% on your orders of popular products that have a worldwide reputation for quality and satisfaction. Avon products have a money back guarantee. **Please share this order and web information with your friends and co-workers!**

For our fundraiser we will be using the Avon full brochure. You will be able to purchase your items on a special website where you can view the whole brochure and place your order on-line at your convenience 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You may start to purchase items as soon as October 20, 2008 and continue through November 30, 2008. Your order will arrive within a week, directly to your home. Avon has given us a special code (see below) which entitles you to FREE shipping and handling.

This is a **fun and easy way** for you to make a donation to the AKA and save money on your orders. The brochures allow you to shop for yourself as well as shop for holiday items. Avon is a great source for those extra holiday gifts for teachers, hairdressers, Secret Santa's, etc. The website is www.youravon.com/aboynton and the promotional code for free shipping and handling is **FSANY**. If you prefer to order by phone, or you need help using the web, call Karen at the Alden office at 781-934-9092. You may also get in touch with our e-representative, Annette Boynton at 508-472-6134. Have fun shopping!!

Aunt Polly's Gift Shop offers old and new favorites!



This beautiful brass-toned Christmas ornament features "Alden House" text on the top and "Duxbury, MA" across the bottom. This hangs beautifully on a red ribbon. Supplies limited, last of the inventory! **\$20**

Alden Kindred Afghan! This lovely blue stitched afghan features scenes of the Alden House, seal and other pictures of this historic landmark. Measures 4' x 5½'. **On sale now for \$40 (was \$50).**



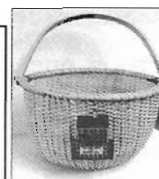
John and Priscilla (Mullins) Alden portraits by artist Tom Vroman. Color prints of original portraits, ready to frame. Unsigned. The portrait of "Priscilla" features the ship *Mayflower* at sea in the distance. Behind "John" is the ocean with a small Pilgrim house on the horizon. The colors are bold and exciting (see them in color on the website at www.alden.org under Aunt Polly's Gift Shop, Special Interest Items). Both prints measure 8"x10" and come in clear plastic wrap. Regularly \$75/set, on sale now for **\$20/set**.



"I'm an Alden" teddy bear. This plush toy bear comes with a silver heart pendant and your choice of pink, green or blue T-shirt! They are soft and very cuddly, 15" long x 6" wide. **\$22**



Nantucket style basket with wooden replica of Alden House and panel stating "John Alden House 1653, Duxbury, MA". This keepsake basket measures 8" diameter, 5 1/2" tall x 8" wide with wooden bottom and base and bent wood handle. **\$20**



Porcelain Sebastian miniature figures of John Alden and Priscilla Alden measure 2.5" tall. John sits atop his barrel as the *Mayflower* cooper with hatchet in hand and Priscilla is posed with her butter churn. She is wearing a blue dress and he is in green trousers, white shirt and buckle shoes. The bases are inscribed "John Alden - The Cooper" and "Priscilla Alden". (Regularly priced at \$35 & \$30)

← **NOW ON SALE, John is \$17.50, Priscilla is \$15.00.**

Solid pewter Sebastian miniature figure of John Alden with barrels and hatchet is 2.5" tall. The base is inscribed "John Alden - The Cooper". Regular price is \$67.50. Makes a great paper weight! **ON SALE NOW for \$20.**



Aunt Polly's Gift Shop: **ORDER FORM**

Checks payable to: Alden Kindred of America, Inc., P. O. Box 2754, Duxbury, MA 02331-2754

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Christmas ornament with red ribbon. Last of Stock!	On sale!	\$20.00 (\$18.00)	\$ _____
Afghan with Alden House images (blue on white)	On Sale!	\$40.00 No member discount	\$ _____
Tom Vroman color prints of John & Priscilla Alden <i>unsigned</i>	On Sale!	\$20/set (\$18.00/set)	\$ _____
Teddy Bears "I'm an Alden" in pink, green or blue T-shirt (your choice)	A favorite!	\$22.00 (\$19.80)	\$ _____
Nantucket style basket with miniature wood Alden House appliqué. Collector's item.	New!	\$20.00 (\$18.00)	\$ _____
John Alden porcelain Sebastian figure. Collector's item.	On Sale! Last of stock	\$17.50 (\$15.75) each	\$ _____
Priscilla Alden porcelain Sebastian figure. Collector's item.	On Sale! Last of stock	\$15.00 (\$13.43)	\$ _____
John Alden pewter Sebastian figure. Collector's item.	On Sale!	\$20 (\$18.00)	\$ _____

Shipping (10%) \$ _____

Handling \$ 3.50

Massachusetts 5% sales tax (MA only) \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Check/MO or Credit Card MC Visa # _____ Exp Mo _____ Year _____

Signature: _____

Make checks payable to Alden Kindred of America, Inc., and send to P. O. Box 2754, Duxbury, MA 02331-2754.

Wouldn't it be Wonderful if Honor Paid the Bills!

Excuse us while we bask in the glory of the National Historic Landmark Award. An honor of such magnitude doesn't come easily—just ask our indefatigable Historian, Tom McCarthy—but this truly admirable achievement tells the entire world, “the Alden story is part of the foundation of America's greatness”. We now have the honor, but how do we get into the spotlight?

There are so many glittering attractions where Americans can spend their time and money that small worthy endeavors such as the Alden House get short shrift. Regrettably, the Alden House Historic Site does not have wonderful collections that we can brag about and exploit. The original contents of the house were sold in October 1955, and the artifacts that replaced them, while quite adequate for furnishing an old house, lack the cachet of authentic Duxbury possessions.

There is one affordable area of collecting, however, that is eminently appropriate, given our heritage — “Alden Memorabilia”. An influential factor in the grant of National Historic Landmark status was the inspirational role John and Priscilla played in American culture. Due largely to Longfellow's *Courtship of Miles Standish*, the Aldens have become icons of American history. Their images (and our house's) were widely reproduced in books, in art and on countless souvenirs, cards, advertisements and decorations. *An outstanding collection of Alden images and objects, displayed in the Alden Barn, will greatly add to the appeal of the museum.* It will also provide a visual history of how our Pilgrim forebears made their mark on American culture.

What do you think? ***Are you interested in helping us collect Alden imagery***, or do you have other ideas to capitalize on our new landmark status and to draw the world to this historic site? Let's put our heads together and take advantage of this wonderful award! Contact Jim Baker at aldenhouse@comcast.net with your ideas. Thank you.



Aunt Polly's Gift Shop always has a supply of unique items for your home or for gift giving. Karen Peterson, the Gift Shop Manager and her son, Anthony Adamo, work all summer making the shop a pleasant & cheerful shopping experience. We sell colorful glass sun chasers, books, collectable plates (with *Mayflower* and John & Priscilla imagery) and historic toys. Also for sale are key chains, magnets and journals with the logo of the Alden Kindred of America. You can see ALL the items by logging on to our site on our website at www.alden.org. Please call us at **781-934-9092** to order or if you have questions. Thank you!



Our Second Grade tours in the early spring are an annual favorite for the children of the Town of Duxbury. The buses arrive all week as the entire class is given a tour of the Alden House and a weaving demonstration by our AKA Board Secretary, Barbara Itz. This past spring it was soggy weather, but all enjoyed seeing and touching some of the artifacts and exploring each room of the house. We also had our annual visit by a snapping turtle!





WINDOW ON AMERICA'S PAST

Alden Kindred of America, Inc.
Alden House Historic Site
P. O. Box 2754
Duxbury, MA 02331-2754

*Located at 105 Alden Street
Duxbury, Massachusetts*

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Duxbury, MA
Permit No. 9



"...why don't you speak for thyself, John?"

Speak for Thyself Awards Evening Honoring Exceptional Women

November 18, 2008

Duxbury Senior Center

Duxbury, MA

5-8 pm

Honorees: Anne Antonellis, Duxbury Business Association
Holly Morris, Community Preservation Committee
Betsy Sullivan, Duxbury Board of Selectmen

Performing will be the *Belle Tones!* Cocktails and dinner will start at 5:00. Donation of \$75 per person to benefit the Alden House Historic Site. Call 781-934-9092.