

Saturday, August 12 Activities

The Little Family Living Room, 1851-1877 (Physical Evidence)

Since there is no photographic or documentary record of the appearance of the Little family living room after the family purchased the farm, SPNEA used bits of physical evidence as clues to how the room was decorated during the Victorian period. A scrap of stylish wallpaper glued to the back of an 18th century mirror hanging on the wall provided the source for the reproduction wallpaper used in the living room vignette. The curtain rods for the room were found in the attic and suggested the type of window treatment recreated. The furnishings were a mixture of inherited pieces and new, all of which remained in the Little household until 1986.

Other aspects of the house include:

The Boardman Family Parlor, 1797-1812 (Archaeology)

The Tracy Family Chamber, 1778-1796 (Documentary Evidence)

The Peirce Family Chamber, circa 1690 (Building Archaeology)

The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities

The Spencer-Peirce-Little House, the Coffin House and the Dole-Little House are all owned and operated by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA), a museum of cultural history with over 40 properties throughout New England. SPNEA preserves, interprets, and collects buildings, landscapes, and objects reflecting New England life from the 17th century to the present for the enjoyment and benefit of all.

If you find some time to visit Boston, you may want to visit an exhibition devoted to the product of furniture-making workshops in Newbury and Newburyport on view at SPNEA's gallery at One Bowdoin Square, Boston through October 6. The show presents thirteen pieces - including chairs, tables, and case pieces - from the mid-eighteenth through the early nineteenth centuries.

According to the curator, Nancy Carlisle, Newbury furniture is generally simple and traditional, reflecting the conservative values of an agricultural community, while Newburyport pieces tend towards elegance, expressing the sophisticated taste of a merchant class familiar with fashions along the East Coast and in England. Included in the show are some pieces from SPNEA's Coffin House and the Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm.

Saturday, August 12th

Dirt Detective Program - Archaeology for Younger Cousins

Spencer-Peirce-Farm

5 Little's Lane, (off Route 1A), Newbury

3 pm

Discover archaeology at a site rich in buried history and artifacts. You dig in a mock pit using actual tools of the trade and examine authentic artifacts discovered by professional archaeologists on the site. With the support of the SPNEA, learn how archaeologists discover the clues to our past.