

## Saturday, August 12th Activities

### **Dole-Little House**

**289 High Road, Route 1A, Newbury**

Built around 1715 with materials salvaged from an earlier structure, the Dole-Little House was constructed for Richard Dole, a cattleman. The house was built on a two-room, central-chimney plan with a small kitchen shed at the rear. This shed has since been replaced with a larger lean-to. Decorative carpentry and finish include chamfered edges, molded sheathing (especially in the great hall and parlor) and possibly original stair balusters. The house was purchased by Francis Little in 1878. It is presently owned by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

### **The Coffin House**

**14 High Road, Route 1A, Newbury**

**tours on the hour**

The original owner was Tristram Coffin. Both of George Little's sons, Moses and Joseph, married daughters of Tristram Coffin, so many of us are also descendants of Tristram Coffin. With rooms reflecting the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, the Coffin House chronicles the evolution of domestic life in rural New England. Built around 1654 as a simple two-room dwelling, the house grew to accommodate different generations of the Coffin family living under one roof. Visitors can trace changes in food preparation and storage, technological improvements in heating, and increasing levels of comfort thanks to the growing availability of material goods.

About 1700, the house was more than doubled in size to provide living space for a married son and his family. As the family grew, partitions were added and lean-tos built so that different generations could continue to live together under one roof.

### **The Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm**

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

The centuries-old trees leading from Little's Lane toward the Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm convey a sense of great age and the passing of countless seasons of planting and harvest. From the moment it was built near the end of the 17th century, this manor house has been the subject of folklore and legend. Its imposing size and costly construction--stone and brick in a region where wood was the customary material for houses--made it exceptional. Its imposing size and unusual building materials command respect and inspire curiosity.

During the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries, the property served as the country seat of wealthy merchants. In 1861, the house and land were acquired by the Little family (Edward Henry and Catherine Little), farmers raised their large family there and carried on a thriving agricultural operation. Unlike their predecessors, for whom the farm represented a diversification of investments, the Littles used the property as their principal economic base. They became prosperous through agriculture and rose to prominence in the community. The last generation of Littles to oversee the Farm were all women - sisters and cousins - who managed the property with the assistance of tenant farmers and ensured its preservation through a bequest to the SPNEA in 1986.