

Darienite

News for Darien

<https://darienite.com>

Darien's Heritage Day on Oct 23 To Include Historical Re-enactments, Demonstrations of Colonial Skills

Author : David Gurliacci

Categories : [Darien History](#), [Weekend Events](#)

Tagged as : [Colonial Re-enactments](#), [Darien 200](#), [Darien Bicentennial 2021](#), [First Congregational Church 2021](#), [First Congregational Church of Darien 2021](#), [Historical Re-enactments](#), [Mather Homestead 2021](#), [Museum of Darien 2021](#), [Stephen Mather Homestead 2021](#)

Date : October 4, 2021

A reenactment of the 1781 Raid on Middlesex Meetinghouse, an 18th-century battle skirmish, children's musket drills, Colonial cooking and artisan demonstrations will be part of Darien's Heritage Day, an all-day family event on Saturday, Oct. 23.

— *an announcement from the Darien 200 Bicentennial Committee*

The event will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at three local historical landmarks and will feature members of The Fifth Connecticut Regiment and the 15th Regiment of Foot.

Darienite

News for Darien

<https://darienite.com>

“We are thrilled to bring this hands-on historical experience to Darien,” said Karen Boccadoro, a Darien resident who is a member of the Fifth’s board. Boccadoro has been a reenactor for over 15 years along with her husband, Carl. “It will be a day that will live in our memories for many years to come.”

The events and activities are being planned by the town’s 2020 Bicentennial Committee and are coordinated by Boccadoro.

Volunteers will portray Patriot and Loyalist militia groups as they conduct drills and skirmishes.

The highlight of the day will be the reenactment of the 1781 Raid of Middlesex Meetinghouse (today’s First Congregational Church of Darien). The raid reenactment is co-sponsored by the Darien Arts Center and directed by Carole Claps, a longtime Darien resident who has directed numerous theatrical performances throughout the region.

The festivities will kick off at 10:30 a.m. at the Museum of Darien, [45 Old Kings Highway North](#) (next to Goodwives Shopping Center), where members of the Fifth Connecticut Regiment, dressed in period costume, will conduct Colonial cooking and artisan demonstrations, and also mingle with the crowd to talk about life during the War.

Children’s musket drills will be held at 10:45 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Free refreshments will be provided by Palmer’s Market.

At 12:45 p.m., the crowd will be invited to stroll up the road (really, [just around the corner](#)) to The First Congregational Church of Darien, 14 Brookside Road, where a play recounting the 1781 Raid of Middlesex Meetinghouse will be performed by members of the 15th Regiment of Foot and local volunteer actors.

The re-enactment will take place outside of the church on the front steps. The play was revised from the original 1980s work by Patricia Wall, the former director of the Museum of Darien. It recounts the Tory raid on the Meetinghouse when over 40 male members of the congregation were kidnapped in a daring Sunday raid.

“We have a tremendously enthusiastic group who will portray the men and women of Middlesex Parish who lived through this traumatic Revolutionary event,” said Claps, who directed “Darien’s Got Talent” for the Darien Arts Center and produced many Cabaret evenings and performances.

At 2:30 p.m., the day will continue to unfold at The Mather Homestead, [19 Stephen Mather Road](#), where the 1781 raid on the Mather Farm will be

Darienite

News for Darien

<https://darienite.com>

reenacted. This drama will recount the moments when silver pieces were discovered by Tory raiders in the well of the Homestead.

The day will be capped by a military drill, cannon firing and an exciting demonstration of a skirmish between British and Colonial troops in the fields adjacent to the Homestead.

“This has been a tremendous, multi-year effort by a group of very committed volunteers who kept working throughout the pandemic to deliver these memorable Darien Bicentennial events,” said Al Miller, chairman of the town’s 2020 Bicentennial Committee.

Donations Welcome

To donate to the town’s Bicentennial Celebration, please write a check to Town of Darien, and include “2020 Bicentennial” in the memo line of the check.

Checks may be mailed to Darien Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, CT 06820 and include ATTN: 2020 Bicentennial on the envelope.

Darienite
For More Information
News for Darien

<https://darienite.com> can visit the [town government website](#). For questions email: info.darien2020@gmail.com.

You can follow Darien 2020 news and trivia at:

—Facebook: Darien2020

—Instagram: [@DarienCT200](#)

—Twitter: [DarienCT200](#)

If You're Going ...

WHEN & WHERE: The event will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (with a rain date the next day: Sunday, Oct. 24).

PARKING will be available near the Museum at 85 Old Kings Hwy. North and on site at The Mather Homestead. Darien police will be on site at all locations to direct traffic.

For everyone's safety, organizers ask that all participants comply with current state and local **COVID-19 guidelines**.

COST: The celebration is **free** (donations are welcome, see above).

Commemorative Bicentennial merchandise will be sold at the events. Cash and checks accepted only. For more information on Bicentennial merchandise, email Darien200Merch@gmail.com.

Thanks to ...

A special thank you to Palmer's Market for generously donating the refreshments for Heritage Day and to the Official 2020 Bicentennial Sponsors for their generosity and continued support.

Platinum Benefactor — The Darien Foundation

Diamond — The Town of Darien

Gold — Crestwood Advisors, Baywater Properties, DR Bank, Hollow Tree Self Storage, The Waters Edge at Giovanni's, William Raveis Real Estate, Mortgage & Insurance

Silver — Neil Hauck Architects, Rand Insurance

Bronze — Barrett Bookstore, Cross Private Client Insurance, Darien Board of Realtors

Exclusive Magazine Sponsor — New Canaan-Darien Magazine