

The Daniel Rose House, 1741: Home of Six Revolutionary War Soldiers and the Nation's First Quilt Exhibited at an American Museum

By Corey Phelon Geske

The Daniel Rose House built in 1741 and long known as the 'Lieut. Jacob Baldwin Tavern' in the West Granville National Register Historic District, is one of the three remaining homes that were part of the original "Place called Bedford," that became Granville,



according to a Bond of 1741 at the Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS) and the tandem deed in Hampden County Records. Located by owner Bill Phelon who restored the home, the Bond was signed by Daniel Rose (1717-1790) 'of Bedford' with the heirs of merchant John Dolbeare, the Boston proprietor who owned the land. Daniel's brother, Deacon David Rose, an advance scout for the Durham Company, selected adjacent land and signed his Bond with other proprietors on the same day Daniel signed, May 22, 1741, to ensure their homes would be neighboring at the western edge of Rose family settlement, as their parents and brothers' families built east of them. West of David and on the west slope of Prospect Mountain, Daniel was positioned to defend and signal, with inventoried 'niches' in the west-facing cellar wall that my brother Bill Phelon proposed were cannon ports and the reason he called the home he restored, 'Fort Rose'.



When Granville Historian Rose Miller pointed out to me the early date suggested by the 2003 report of John O. Curtis (former Director of the Curatorial Department, Old Sturbridge Village) who toured the house at the request of previous owner Ernie Sattler, it was important to again locate the MHS document Bill had found before 2013, which was done after a search of several months. Curtis wrote, "In more than forty years experience looking at old houses, I can recall only one other example that was so remarkably untouched." MACRIS files of 1987 state, "The house is one of the best examples of home and tavern of eighteenth-century architecture remaining in the community today . . . The fact that these features are so complete and unspoiled make them of exceptional importance for study and guidelines for future restoration in the area."

The front entry and east doorway of the Daniel Rose House feature an angled architrave, herein called the 'Bedford Settlement Door Surround'; also found at the similar gambrel-roofed Rev. Jedediah Smith-Oliver Phelps House, 1757 (as noted in its 1987 MACRIS inventory); and at the John and Ruth Rose House, c. 1743.

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At the Daniel Rose House, the front architrave 'pointed' to the original double-leaf front door of eight panels, the number '8' long associated in Christian architecture with the eight blessings of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5: 3-10), speaking to mercy; a fitting doorway for Daniel, who like his brother John, was brother to deacons, David and Justus, the sons of Jonathan Rose, said to be a deacon by descendants.

Acting upon the Sermon, Daniel's neighboring brother David, who brought twenty-six families from Durham, CT to Bedford, would bring home the infant Lemuel Haynes on New Year's Day 1754, before the official name change of Bedford 'plantation' to the incorporated district of Granville, January 25. His gesture anticipated the Declaration of Independence: "all men are created equal." Deacon Rose would school Lemuel with books from the Durham Book Company, the oldest library in the colony of Connecticut, in which he owned a share, enabling Lemuel to become the first black man ordained a minister in the United States, preaching from 1781 to 1786 at Granville and returning to preach as late as 1833.



The Daniel Rose House was home to six Revolutionary War soldiers who answered the Lexington alarm and served at the Siege of Boston; fought British ships on the Hudson in the prelude to the Battle of Long Island; crossed the Delaware with Washington to fight at Trenton; served at West Point and Castle Island; marched to Fort Ticonderoga; wintered at Valley Forge and met with Governor John Hancock. In 1784, the home was a Tavern, run by Daniel's son Abner, an artilleryman injured in action on the Hudson in July 1776. After the house was sold by Daniel's heirs to Lt. Jacob Baldwin, it was again a tavern from 1794 to 1799.

Before, during and after the Civil War, the house was owned by Rev. Joel Baker's son, Francis G. Baker, and was home to the Nation's first quilt that would be exhibited in a period room at an American museum. Before 1886, the circa 1798 quilt made by Francis' mother, Olive Curtiss Baker, was donated to the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association at Deerfield where it inspired Deerfield's Arts and Crafts Movement and was adapted by the Deerfield Society of Blue and White Needlework for a bed set commissioned by the mother of William Randolph Hearst. Olive's quilt is now at Memorial Hall Museum and Mrs. Hearst's set is at the Frary House. According to my research, the Baker quilt was made in Granville, MA (not Durham, CT) as long believed. Olive's whole-cloth wool quilt was dyed in a hue that bespoke her name, to represent the green color associated with 'Hope', and 'Olive Branch of Peace' on the Great Seal of the United States, with its motto, '*Novus Ordo Seclorum*', 'A New Order' for the young Nation. The Daniel Rose House is significant for its association with families representing an overarching ideal unique to the United States, a belief in the equality of mankind and the attainment of liberty as a natural right.



References: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS), Daniel Rose House (1741), GRN 33, Continuation, 196 pp.; also at "Main Road, 1442, Rose, Baldwin, Baker, Gibb, Bearse, Pendrake, Sattler, Phelon Place," PART 1. *Granville History Digital Collection* at <https://granvillehistory.omeka.net/items/show/362>; Corey Victoria Phelon Geske, "Main Road 1442, Daniel Rose House, PART 2 [3,4, Baker Quilt]. *Granville History Digital Collection* at <https://granvillehistory.omeka.net/items/show/1233>; Albion B. Wilson, *History of Granville, Massachusetts* (Hartford, CT: Connecticut Printers, Inc., Jan. 25, 1954). Christmas Card photo and design by Bobbie-Jo Day. Photos by Corey Phelon Geske.