

The Kitchen Chamber

Restored by Michael Montemagno

This room may have been used for a farm hand or servant. Alternately, Ellen and Hiram Dutton had six children who survived childhood, and some of the boys may have slept here. Olive Dutton Nolin, who grew up in this house, remembered that her father, Warren, slept here so he would not wake the family when he went out at dawn to milk the cows. Room used by hired hand.

Furniture:

- **Blanket chests:** the low blanket chest is a gift from Nathaniel Page Lauriat, who told us that it had been used for generations in the Page house on Page Road.
- The taller **bureau** is a William and Mary chest dating from the early 1700s. On loan from Steve Arsenault.
- **Ladderback chairs:** this pair of all-purpose chairs had their legs cut off to fit into a wagon or sleigh, and so we call them the “carriage chairs.” They came to us with their seats broken. Jeannette Pothier discovered that having them rewoven would cost hundreds of dollars, so she taught herself to cane and with the help of Constance Matheson and Sharon McDonald, repaired them.
- The large **spinning wheel** is a reproduction given to us by Elizabeth Skipper, a friend. When the Historical Society museum is complete and the Davis walking wheel leaves to be displayed there, this wheel will take its place in the Great Hall.
- The smaller **Flax Wheel** was used for spinning flax into linen thread. Unlike the walking wheel downstairs, one can sit at this wheel and power it with a treadle. There is a sample of flax next to a heckling on top of the William and Mary chest. Flax is pulled through several successively finer heckling combs to prepare the flax for spinning.
- **Looms:** there are several looms in the room. The largest is the tape loom, for weaving narrow bands of material, or tape. The box loom is also a form of tape loom. This one belonged to Abigail Stearns, whose husband was the Rev. Stearns. The belt loom weaves a somewhat wider tape.
- **The small rug** was repaired by Lillian Dutton in a more frugal era.
- **The round wooden box** was branded with the letters HLD for Hiram Lee Dutton.

-Sharon McDonald, Curator