

History of the Yankee Doodle Dollers of Massachusetts

25th Anniversary Banquet
Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA
November 4, 2003

The first meeting of the group that formed YDD was held Saturday, August 20, 1977 in the garden of **Marian Schmuhl**, Bedford, Mass. The club founders, **Jimmy and Fay Rodolfos** and Marian put an advertisement in the local papers inviting interested collectors to the meeting. 18 people showed up, including **Beulah Franklin** and **Hannah Shrand** who are still members today!

Beulah was on the first nominating committee and she has continued to be active working on club projects. She is still one of our most loyal and consistent supporters!

Hannah Shrand served as club president from 1981-83 and she drew our club logo, the Maiden America Doll. This logo has continued to appear on newsletters and other YDD publications for 26 years!



The first year of meetings was spent electing officers, developing by-laws and recruiting new members. The name of the club was chosen and Marian Schmuhl, who also came up with the name for our newsletter, *The Yankee Doodle Doller Holler*. In the beginning, meetings were held in members' homes on the first Tuesday of the month. Eliot church of Newton became the meeting place in fall of 1978. Jimmy Rodolfos was the first president and wrote the newsletter for the first 11 years. The first club program was about dolls dressed in original clothes.

There are many milestones in our history over the last 25 years.

YDD officially became a UFDC club in August, 1978.

In 1980, the club put on a wonderful exhibit at the Museum of our National Heritage in Lexington. This exhibit featured 100 American Made Dolls.

Four years later, in 1984, the club put on a Region 15 convention at the Holiday Inn in Peabody. The name of the Regional was Maiden America and Friends. The souvenir doll was by well-known doll artist Carole Bowling, who was then a member of the club. Jimmy and Fay Rodolfos and early members were responsible for the success of this excellent event.

In 1987, YDD celebrated a 10th birthday party with a dinner at the Days Inn in Newton Lower Falls. There was a porcelain doll souvenir and dinner was \$15.00!

October 22, 1988 the club hosted a mini-regional called Harvest of Dolls at the Holiday Inn in Peabody. This was a wonderful event with a salesroom, dinner, a doll competition and souvenir doll. Jimmy and Fay Rodolfos chaired this event.

In 1989, Jimmy and Fay were honored by the Nellie Perkins Doll Club "for service and friendship to area collectors" and "long-standing generosity and competence in organizing New England doll events."

In the following years our club events included a big dinner and auction at the June meetings and auctions with other dolls clubs.

Our philanthropy projects have included donations of needed items and money to charities and museums. One of our philanthropy projects under the chairmanship of Fay Rodolfos was a donation of items and money to shelters for battered women. In addition, every Christmas for many years we have donated dolls and toys to underprivileged children, through the dedicated efforts of **Jane Merrill**, our current philanthropy chairman.

In 1990 the club donated money for a large Plexiglas enclosure to surround and protect the Haunted Dollhouse at the Wenham Museum. We have also donated an American Girl doll and her clothes to Wenham in memory of long time member, Julia Richardson, as well as a doll from Cythnia Prussman's collection in her memory. We made a donation to Ovarian Cancer research in memory of Pam Zampielo.

We donate helpers to the National UFDC convention every year and to Region 15 special events and conventions when they are scheduled We always send a donation for the gift to the outgoing President of UFDC.

In June of 1997, we celebrated the close of the year with a festive dinner in this same room.

We have had members active and distinguished at the National Level for years.

Dana Clarke and **Betty Nett** have attended 20 national conventions where they have served as exhibit monitors and clerks and entered many ribbon-winning dolls in the national doll competitions.

Judy Abrahams is our newest member to attend a National UFDC Convention.

The last 2 years, **Diane Buck** has been the Chairman of the National Antique competitive Exhibit, a very prestigious responsibility. Diane is also author of articles on antique dolls, has served as Doll Curator of Wenham Museum where she organized a number of important doll exhibits and she was Volunteer Curator at

Fuller Museum in Brockton, where she mounted a wonderful exhibit on African-American dolls. Most recently, she was the co-curator of the fabulous Blue Ribbon Dolls exhibit at Wenham and has consulted to the JFK Library on the exhibit of Caroline Kennedy's dolls.

Judy Izen has been a member of YDD since 1978. She is a talented historical researcher on dolls from the 50's and later. She has published countless articles in all the major doll publications. She has also written books on The Vogue Doll Company, Ideal Dolls and the American Character Company. **Carol Stover**, a member living in Chicago, has done some coauthoring with Judy and has published additional books on 50's dolls.

Dorothy and Jerome McGonagle are internationally recognized authorities on French antique dolls and the authors of many antique doll articles and books on French dolls and American Made Dolls. They have received the UFDC's highest award for educational endeavors through dolls.

Progress has brought growth and changes to our hobby and to UFDC, and our club continues to evolve. Our common interest in dolls and our belief in sharing and friendship will keep us united. We can only imagine what the next 25 years will bring but we look forward to continued friendships and learning through our dolls.

We are proud to honor past members for their years of service and leadership with certificates of our sincere appreciation, at our 25th anniversary Banquet.

Club Founders

Jimmy and Fay Rodolfos
Marian Schmuhl

We would like to honor our current members who have been with the club since the very first meeting in 1977. We truly appreciate their leadership and many contributions over the years.

Beulah Franklin
Hannah Shrand

YDD became a UFDC club in August, 1978. Charter # 499.

Current members and year of membership

Judy Izen	1978
Dana Clarke	1978
Jane Merrill	1978

Dorothy McGonagle	1980
Jerome McGonagle	1980
Sandra Vermette	1981
Ceil Eastman	1982
Joanne Goldstein	1982
Betty Nett	1984
Diane Buck	1984
Judy Smith	1988
Laurie Taylor Curby	1988
Marilyn Johnson	1989
Audrey Fletcher	1994
Linda Marie Mercer	1994
Carol Stover	1994
Debra Yavner	1997
Virginia Loftos	1998
Benedicta Raia	1999
Laura Ciovacco	1999
Audrey Butler	1999
Judy Abrahams	2001
Christina Englund	2001
Jenny Eggers	2001
Faith Hirsch	2002

YDD Club Presidents

Jimmy Rodolfos	1977-1981
Hannah Shrand	1981-1983
Dorothy McGonagle	1983-1985
Joanne Goldstein	1985-1987
Nancy Smith	1987-1989
Evie Kaatz	1989-1991
Dot Smith	1991-1993
Diane Buck	1993-1995
Betty Nett	1995-1997
Marion Schmuhl	1997-1999
Diane Buck and Betty Nett	1999-2001
Linda Marie Mercer	2001-2003
Benedicta Raia	2003-2005