



**HEARTHSTONE**  
**IN THE NEWS**

## MINIATURE "HEARTHSTONE" EXHIBIT UNVEILED



**2013**---The public got a sneak peek at a new exhibit during the 2012 Christmas events. A miniature diorama of Hearthside built in the downstairs hall bookcase provides a representation of many of the rooms in the house, with several fine details appearing in each scene.

The replica model of Hearthside that has long appeared in the annual Memorial Day parade in Lincoln and which resides in the side yard has captured the attention of those who come on tour. But without an interior to explore to see what it the house might look like inside, our pint-sized visitors are disappointed. Now, this dollhouse provides a wonderful peek inside the world of miniatures and to imagine what it was like to live at Hearthside. Many of the details found throughout the house can be seen in miniature as well as many items that relate to the previous owners. But it is even representative of present times and has a display board on an easel which we use on tours, along with a miniature copy of the newest Hearthside History book.



Dollhouses have a long history, dating back several centuries and were originally designed for adults and children of privilege. They delighted all ages and because many people could not afford intricate dollhouses, a "cupboard dollhouse," in which a series of several detailed cabinets displayed miniature household items, became quite popular.

By the mid-17th century, dollhouses became common in nurseries as toys and as tools to teach girls about domestic life. The popularity of dollhouses grew rapidly after 1894. By 1924, dollhouses became quite extravagant. Queen Mary's dollhouse even included electricity, water, gold leaf etchings, a grandfather clock with chimes, marble tiled floors, hand-carved ceilings and two working elevators. One of the first major dollhouse makers in the United States was Roger Williams Toys of Providence, RI.

Designed and built by museum manager, David Olstein, it is being dedicated to the memory of Mildred Hartley, our beloved volunteer who passed away in 2011. Because of her love of children and especially of dolls, this seems a very fitting tribute to her. Funds from her memorial fund, as well as private donations, have underwritten the cost of this exhibit to date. Of course, the more donations we get, the more we may continue to add to it, so any contributions are still welcomed. Certainly, Hearthside's dollhouse is not as extravagant as Queen Mary's. But we hope this miniature scale of Hearthside will help to capture the imagination of all ages for years to come.