

## Wreaths and Trees is Coming Back! Nov. 18-20

To kick off the holiday season the Moffatt-Ladd House & Garden will hold its “Celebration of Wreaths & Trees” event on the museum grounds at 154 Market Street in Portsmouth, November 18, 5:00-8:00PM and November 19 & November 20, 2:00-8:00PM. The event is open to the public and has an admission fee of \$5.00 for adults. Admission is free for children under 12 and members of the



Friends of the Moffatt-Ladd House and National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of New Hampshire (NSCDA-NH). The house, garden, and warehouse will feature wreaths, trees, and installations submitted by more than 50 businesses, individuals, and organizations. If you are interested in providing a decorated wreath or tree, or are interested in volunteering at this event please call (603) 430-7968 for details. We will have both the Dining Room and the Kitchen open this year with holiday decorations in addition to the small trees and wreaths in the Great Hall, wreaths, trees, and installations in the Garden and driveway, and large trees in the Warehouse. Check our website and Facebook page for the latest updates. *Please “Friend” us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to help us spread the word about this family event!!*

## Ladd Sampler

While going through family papers left to them, Jinny Mead Wickeraad and her daughter Bonnie Hudson discovered a



wonderfully preserved sampler done by Ann Perry Ladd Ward which they have presented to the Society. This is only the second family sampler to enter the collection. We are delighted to receive it. The sampler will be photographed, mounted, and framed this winter to be ready for display in the House next season.

## Exploring Slavery Program

Portsmouth High School student Emma Poisson worked with our consultant Keith Mascoll, and videographer Brad Randolph to refine the script created by Emma and her fellow students in Sam Tombarelli’s honors American Studies class in May.



Video clips from that session will be used on the teacher “portal” of our website along with documents and curriculum sets. Consultant Jayne Gordon will be working with our new education coordinator Jennifer Belmont-Earl on a teacher workshop for next summer. Our first two pilot programs involved honors American Studies classes. This fall we will be working with another PHS teacher, Cynthia Young, and her level 3 class. Cynthia, who has a background in museum education, is very enthusiastic about the program!

## Preservation Challenges

Portsmouth’s North End continues to attract development. The now completed Portwalk project will soon be followed by Harborcorp’s 360,000 square foot, six-story hotel, convention center, condominium complex, Whole Foods market, and parking garage. The project currently is being

contested in the courts, with resolution expected in the next few months. The newest project proposed in the North End involves two High Street properties adjacent to the Moffatt-Ladd garden.

One of the two parcels was owned by Katharine Whipple and loaned to Prince Whipple after he was emancipated. Prince and his wife Dinah moved a house to the site. Dinah Whipple became the founder of Portsmouth's first Ladies African Charitable School, and in honor of this, the site is part of both the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail and the NH Women's Heritage Trail. The current building on the site dates to about 1820, and probably continued to house the school after that date. The other parcel contains a ca. 1820 building that was owned by artisans, including a tin-plate worker. Both lots which included small outbuildings such as privies and chicken coops have remained largely undisturbed by modern development, and are archaeologically significant. The Society successfully challenged the developer's request for five zoning variances that would have allowed an increase the density and height of buildings on the property and also the addition of a large three-story structure at the northwest corner of our garden. It is not clear what will happen next, but the Society continues to monitor the situation closely, and hopes to preserve the sites as much as possible. Plans to develop these lots suggest that the density of buildings in our neighborhood will continue to increase, and vigilance on the part of the Dames will be needed to ensure that future development respects the historic integrity of the neighborhood and the character-based zoning enacted by the City.

## Rainy Children's Day Attracts 2,300 Visitors

On the first Sunday in May, a day marked by intermittent rain, brave families still found their way into the city for Pro-Portsmouth's annual Children's Day. With the weather forecasters predicting rain, we reached out to Marshall Tent and Event Rental which again saved the day for us by donating a tent for part of our activity-based treasure

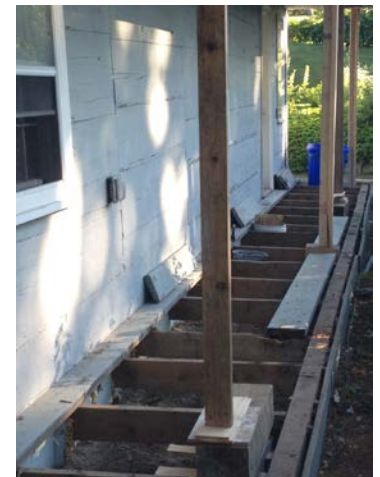


hunt (see picture above). With some of the usual outdoor events cancelled because of rain, it seemed that everyone who attended Children's Day came to the Moffatt-Ladd House. With our large interior space for pirate-themed crafts in the Warehouse, and the re-location of the treasure chest in the Great Hall, we were very popular! For the first time the Hilton Garden Inn sponsored our activities, and we greatly appreciate the excellent partnership that we have with this hotel. Thank you to everyone who helped with the preparations took part in directing crafts and activities.



## Veranda, Balustrade, and Gate Repairs

Maintenance is always a challenge at an historic property. This year we were finally able to complete the painting project on the House, with the repair and painting of the veranda floor, columns, and overhang, and the North façade of the Ell. As preservation



artisans Keith Trefethen and his colleague James Taylor worked on the underpinnings of the veranda floor, they discovered that the crawl space under the Ell was separated from the outside by only a thin layer of Styrofoam insulation. This necessitated a re-thinking of the project, with the result that they took the time to install a new stainless steel mesh barrier to prevent animal encroachment. We hope that this improvement will cut down on the odor from the unfortunate small animals who did not survive the winter in that space last year, as well as provide better insulation for the office during the off season.



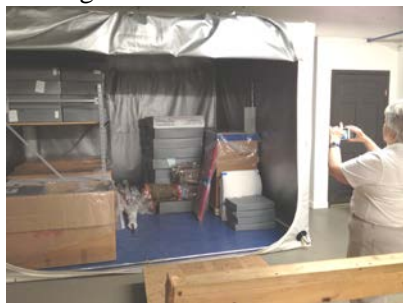
The front gate has been slowly deteriorated since the re-grading of the sidewalk on Market Street. With the construction across the street at 173-175 Market Street, and the rental of our Ceres Street parking spaces to the builders, it was clear that we would need to reactivate our driveway parking, and that the gate would be in continuous use. Aland Realty, the developers of

the 173-175 Market buildings, generously donated a portion of the cost of this work. The post and pedestrian door next to the gate were repaired at the same time. Unfortunately the post was damaged by a caterer's truck this summer – so it will soon be repaired again in preparation for the winter!

The catwalk and underpinnings of the “Widow’s Walk” on the House were also in need of repair this year. Keith Trefethen and James Taylor worked diligently on this project throughout the winter, so that everything would be ready for installation before the summer. The roof dormer and balustrade will need to be painted next summer.

## Textile Room Project

The Textile Room has long been in need of new shelving and general reorganization. We were mobilized into action this Spring when moths emerged from a 19<sup>th</sup> century



carpet bag wrapped in muslin and “stored” on the floor because of overcrowded shelves. The Museum Properties Committee voted to send the entire collection to Historic New England’s Conservation Facility in Haverhill, MA, for a “vacation” in their carbon dioxide chamber. This treatment eliminated our pest problem. Sherry Cullimore and Barbara Ward reviewed the collection before it went off for treatment. Under Sherry Cullimore’s direction, Stephanie Hewson, Marsha Gmyrek, Gerry Ward, and our new Museum Properties Chairman Meredith Harding transported the textiles to Haverhill and reinstalled the entire room. The collection is now returned moth-free and stored on the new shelves built by Sherry and Meredith in the summer heat.

## Parlor Project Underway

The Parlor Restoration Committee – Sherry Cullimore, Meredith Harding, Jane Nylander, Richard Nylander, Gerry Ward, and Barbara Ward --

started work a few months ago, and already have some exciting plans for the Parlor. Most significant is Richard Nylander’s success in obtaining a



commitment from Steve Larson of Adelphi Paper Hangings to create flocked wallpaper that approximates the original. The paper will be based on the surviving paper in the John Wentworth House (see picture above), now part of the Mark Wentworth Home. Gerry Ward presented a talk to the Society’s September meeting on the project. After referring to the 18<sup>th</sup> century inventories of the Moffatts and the Whipples, he highlighted objects that are needed to furnish the room accurately.



Among these are English “penciled ware” tea cups and saucers (see picture above) and 18<sup>th</sup> century wooden or Japanned tea boards (oval or

rectangular trays). The inventories also mention more than three dozen wine glasses, and dozens of water glasses. We hope to add examples of early glassware to the collection as well.

## NH Furniture Masters

Six members of NH Furniture Masters, a juried group of fine cabinetmakers, shared their works at a special event at the Moffatt-Ladd House on Sat. July 30.



They greeted visitors in the House and offered their thoughts on their favorite pieces of furniture in our collection.

Everyone then adjourned to the Warehouse where each of

the Masters unveiled one of their works and talked about the inspiration for, and execution of, their designs. Lavish hors d'oeuvres were donated by: Chill Catering, Oar House Restaurant, Cava, Hilton Garden Inn, and Atlantic Grill. We were delighted to have Cambridge Trust, Norwood Realty Group, and Beth and Chuck Goss as our sponsors. We were thrilled to see many new faces among the more than 80 participants.

## Colonial Dames 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On a beautiful day in early August, more than 60 NCDA-NH members, Friends, staff, and the community gathered in the Garden to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup>



anniversary of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Members provided hors d'oeuvres and wine provided

by Society members and staff. No birthday celebration is complete without a cake and ours was no exception.

In June we displayed the two traveling exhibitions organized by the National Society in honor of the

anniversary: *History Keepers*, and *Women of Vision*. Developed by the staff at *Dumbarton House* in Georgetown, D.C., the exhibitions circulated throughout the country.



## Twilight Tour

On Friday August 19, 2016, member sites of the Portsmouth Historic Sites

Associates opened their doors for Twilight Tour. This year's special dining theme



was realized at the Moffatt-Ladd House for more than 100 visitors with wonderful displays by Sherry Cullimore and Meredith Harding as well as three neighboring Market Street businesses: Withington Antiques/Carrigan Interiors; Joyce Jordan Interiors (see Joyce with her display above); and Valerie's Gallery. The garden featured a 1950s picnic display with objects loaned by Jane Nylander, Barbara Engelbach, and Barbara and Gerry Ward.



Text and design by Barbara M. Ward  
Photos by Jennifer Belmont-Earl, Marsha Gmyrek,  
Stephanie Hewson, Helen Ogden, and Barbara Ward