



Milestones

Our fearless NSCDA-NH President, Mary Waples, ended her 4-year term in September, passing the torch to Paige Trace. Mary has been a great supporter of the Dames and the museum. She has been always willing to “get her hands dirty,” often

changing her schedule at the drop of a hat to drive the hour to Portsmouth from her home in Bow. We look forward to working with Paige, who is tenacious and dedicated, and has been active on many NSCDA national committees, and as a Regent and Board member of Gunston Hall. We are excited to see what we can all accomplish together in the next four years!

Garden News

The Moffatt-Ladd Garden is truly a labor of love, cared for and maintained by incredibly dedicated NSCDA-NH volunteers and our gardener, Haven Milton. Liz Hoefler, Linda Biegiebing, and their hard-working crew spend countless hours tending the garden, and this year was no exception. Dozens of heirloom peonies were



generously donated by June Phillips, whose family owned the Phillips Mansion in Salem, Mass. The peonies were planted near the heirloom



roses that flank the veranda, replacing the Hosta, a massive undertaking! Rabbits have been a perpetual problem for years and this year a knee-high fence was constructed around the middle portion of the lower garden to help protect the flowers from the bunnies. It worked! The fence allowed visitors to enjoy the flowers

from the path, and a gate allowed workers to access the beds for maintenance.



Masonry Project Begins

John Wastrom, preservation masonry expert and master mason, started the process of repairing and restoring the brick and stone foundation of the Counting House this fall, and will soon be moving into the House to begin work on that foundation this winter. In the spring of 2021, he will finish with repointing the chimneys of the



House above the roof line. This project – to restore and preserve all of the masonry elements of the House and Counting House – is possible because of a major grant for half of the total cost of the project

from NH’s Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). Some of these funds have been matched by gifts from private donors, the Joan Pearson Watkins Trust, and grants from the Daughters of the American Revolution Preservation Program, and the NH Preservation Alliance/1772 Foundation grant program. Thank you to all of our generous donors for your support of this effort! We are still fundraising – please let us

know if you would like to contribute to this vital undertaking.

Maintenance Updates

With visitors only on the grounds four days a week, and our delayed opening, we were able to accomplish several major maintenance tasks this year. Keith Trefethen repaired clapboard and painted the west end of the Ell, repaired the rising hinge on the front door of the House, and replaced the hinge on the trap door to the roof balustrade. Keith is currently working on reproducing the large grey board fence along Market Street. Advantage Painting painted the west façade of the House (see photo below) and areas of the south façade of the Warehouse. Keith repaired the roof finials in 2019, and this fall Gary Trull painted the roof balustrade, which now gleams in the sun as it should!



A Season Unlike Any Other

While it was a hard choice, the decision was made to open only the Garden to the public. Starting in mid-July, guides greeted visitors and provided information and pictures of the interior of the House, and gave tours of the grounds highlighting the architecture of the buildings, and answering questions about the Garden and its history. Many visitors were astounded by the beauty and extent of the Garden, and expressed their desire to return to see the House when it re-opens. This unusual season helped the



guiding staff to better appreciate how much they enjoy showing the House to visitors and sharing its rich history. Guides helped to produce a map and short garden history for a flyer that was distributed to people as they entered the grounds via the driveway. Gardener Haven Milton and the devoted and hardworking

NSCDA-NH Garden Committee nurtured the garden to keep it at its best in spite of summer drought conditions.

Prior to opening, several guides (hired back with PPP funds) worked on a number of projects and participated in training sessions. The Black Heritage Trail of NH invited Moffatt-Ladd staff to join their annual day-long staff training session via Zoom. Remarks by staff from the Royall House and Slave Quarters in Medford, MA, especially energized our guiding staff. This training helped staff brainstorm ways to better tell the story of the enslaved members of the household. We quickly decided to start with reproducing the type of bedroll on which they would have slept. The Royall House has included these in their interpretation, and we reached out to them to learn more. On their advice, we purchased grain sacks for the mattresses and undyed wool for the blankets. A few of the guides are constructing the bedrolls and we plan to display them next season.

Additionally, several guides researched topics to share virtually with the public. Gloria Bonito recorded the narrative for a video about the portraits in the House that is currently in production and will soon be posted on our YouTube channel. Lauren Gianino researched and wrote on the suffrage movement. Kristen VanUden proofread and corrected the revised typescript of *Families of the Moffatt-Ladd House* compiled by Nancy Douthat Goss in 1989. We hope to have a new and enlarged version of this genealogy available for family descendants soon.

The Portsmouth Historical Society asked the community to create quilt squares to commemorate this time in our city's history. Kerry Kenney, Gloria Bonito, and Kristin Goodwillie worked together to create two Moffatt-Ladd-related quilt squares for the quilts. The community's response was so enthusiastic that the Historical Society needed to make two full-size quilts!

While this season was unlike any other before, we are grateful to have a wonderful property to share with visitors from both near and far.

Parlor Project Finishing Touches



Our plans to celebrate the completion of the Parlor Restoration Project were put on hold by the pandemic, but we hope to have the event in 2021. This winter we

were able to make some outstanding purchases for the room (see New Acquisitions story), with some objects actually arriving after we shut down the office on March 16. Since that time, we have been working on an interpretive shelf and small book on the project, both funded through a grant from the Lane and Elizabeth Dwinell Charitable Trust.

Photographer Ralph Morang has been at the House twice to take photographs for the book. Jane Nylander made napkins out of a very fine handwoven reproduction 18th-century linen that goes very well with a tablecloth she also donated to the House. Several loans of silver from a local collector and from the Portsmouth Historical Society, helped us to create the dinner scene on the previous page inspired by the dinner that took place in early December 1777 when William Whipple played host to John Adams, the Reverend Ezra Stiles, and “two French gentlemen.”

We also reached out to conservator Wenda Kochanowski (shown here with Museum Alliance Chairman and NSCDA-NH 1st Vice President Jennifer Evans) for an assessment of the picture frames on the portraits in the room. We are very fortunate to have wonderful 18th-century frames on our four family portraits by the artist John Greenwood. We have applied for grant funding and hope to have the frames cleaned and repaired in early 2021.



New Acquisitions



We were delighted to be able to add this teapot, ca 1750, to the collection for display in the Parlor. Inventories of the parlor include “1 Sett Pencil’d English China Cups & Saucers,” and a related reference to a “Sett [of] China.” The very precise wording indicates that these were imported penciled wares from England, as opposed to the Chinese wares that served as their inspiration. The designs are applied with a thin brush (or “pencil”) and resemble more common transfer-printed wares.

The parlor inventories refer to “2 Large Burnt China Bowls” and “a Sett of Burnt China Cups & Saucers.” The term “burnt china” is generally accepted to be the period term for Chinese Imari-decorated wares of the kind seen here. These porcelain pieces feature underglaze blue decoration with overglaze red or orange enamel and sometimes gilding. eBay proved to be a useful resource for obtaining the various



Imari wares needed for the parlor, including a set of cups and saucers (7 of 8 pictured above).

Blue and white Worcester soft-paste porcelains were well represented in the parlor inventories, with a dozen cups and saucers identified specifically and other tea wares that can be inferred, such as the coffeepot seen here. These colorful English ceramics date from the first period of Worcester porcelains and were made in the third quarter of the 18th century.



Other purchases for the Parlor restoration this year include a Dutch Delftware garniture set. Five-piece sets of porcelain vases were a common form of decoration on mantelpieces and over-door shelves in wealthy mid-18th-century interiors. Made of tin-glazed earthenware, the garniture is notable for the bird finials on the lids of three pieces. It is marked by de Porceleyne Lampetkan (active in Delft, 1609-1811) and dates to ca. 1730-80. The set provides a dramatic color contrast with the flocked wallpaper, creating a striking focal point at the far end of the parlor. Although at first we questioned whether a Dutch set made sense for the Moffatt-Ladd House, the fact that Samuel Moffatt left Portsmouth in 1768 after his bankruptcy to live on the Dutch island of St. Eustatius where the Moffatts and Whipples had strong trading and business contacts argued in favor of representing Dutch goods in the



Parlor. Acquisitions like these not only enhance the appearance of the House, but help us to make interpretive connections with the history of the Moffatt, Whipple, and Ladd families.

Educator Workshop

"Tell the truth, tell the truth, tell the truth." This has been the advice to us from Valerie Cunningham, author of *Black Portsmouth* (2004), and JerriAnne Boggis, Executive Director of the Black Heritage Trail of NH. If 2020 has made one thing clear, it is how important it is to follow this advice. Telling the truth has been a priority for us for some time, and we are now focusing on improving our tours even more. We are adding new trainings for our guides to help them place the experiences of the enslaved men and women who lived at the Moffatt-Ladd House within a broader context. Our annual Teacher and Museum Educator is going virtual with a series of online lectures and discussions which also will be open to members and to the general public. The first lecture and discussion, led by Jared Ross Hardesty, Associate Professor of History at Western Washington University, and author of *Black Lives, Native Lands, White Worlds: A History of Slavery in New England* (2019), will take place in early January. To sign up, contact Jennifer Belmont-Earl at education.moffatt.ladd@gmail.com. Please check our website and Facebook page for updates on this series.

New Banners

We created new banners for our Market Street fences this season, including one highlighting the Moffatt-Ladd House as the home of signers of two important Revolutionary-era documents. William Whipple, was one of three signers of the Declaration of Independence from NH. Prince Whipple and Winsor Moffatt were two of the twenty signers of the 1779 Petition of Freedom. We felt it was vital to draw more attention to the signers of both documents, all of whom resided in the House and contributed to the fight for liberty.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote. While the NSCDA-NH had planned a celebration during the summer, it too had to be postponed, but we couldn't let the anniversary go unnoticed. Teaming up with NH Women Vote 100, we produced a banner celebrating the anniversary of this hard-earned right.

Grant Support Helps Meet 2020 Challenges



As the pandemic reached the U.S. in March, we thought it would still be safe to open on June 1, as usual. How naive we were. It quickly became clear that it

would be necessary to cancel all public events and rentals. It was deemed safe to open only the Garden to visitors starting in mid-July. The Museum Management Team worked together to develop an opening procedure that would keep our staff, volunteers, and visitors safe. While many things had to be put on hold, we had more than 850 visitors to the Garden, and have been able to make significant progress on many maintenance projects. We were successful in obtaining grants for the largest projects. We also received support from the local Clipper Strong! effort, a CARES Act grant through the NH Humanities Council for general operating support, and a federal PPP loan to help us through this difficult time. All of us learned how to interact remotely, and NSCDA-NH meetings had great support, with attendees from literally all over the globe!

Wreaths & Trees to Return



In September, with the pandemic poised for a comeback, we realized we would have to abandon any hope of holding our Wreaths and Trees event in November this year. The event takes place only once every two years, so this is especially heartbreaking.

To help make the museum property festive, we will have some lights decorating the

Whipple horse chestnut tree and the front of the House. The NSCDA-NH will decorate a tree for Strawberry Banke's Candlelight Stroll, which will be entirely outside this year. Don't forget Wreaths and Trees – it will be back.

Staff News

After two years with us, Programs & Events Coordinator, Katie O'Brien, left in August to take the position of Event Coordinator for the Barn on the Pemi in Plymouth, NH. We will miss Katie's enthusiasm and wish her well! Our Education Coordinator, Jenny Belmont-Earl gave birth to her second son, Zeke, and now has two active little boys! Stephanie Hewson, our Office Manager and Curatorial Assistant had her first child in April, a little boy named Owen. Several new grandchildren were born during the pandemic year as well!

Designed and edited by Stephanie Hewson and Barbara M. Ward. Contributions from Marsha Gmyrek, Kristin Goodwillie, Jennifer Belmont-Earl, and Gerry Ward. Photos by Ralph Morang, Phyllis Gagnon, Haven Milton, and Barbara M. Ward. Masthead by Ad-cetera Graphics.