

Parlor Restoration News

The Parlor was open to visitors during the restoration process, and visitors enjoyed learning about what we were doing and being able to talk with Kate Shattuck, who stripped the floor and installed the wallpaper. Natalie Larson of Williamsburg, VA, seen below, donated her services and the hand-woven reproduction curtains to the project. They are exquisite!



The Parlor had its “soft opening” in September.

We are pleased to report that we have received a \$5,000 grant from the Dwinell Foundation to create an interpretive area along the south wall (to your left as you enter the room) of the Parlor, and to publish a small book about the restoration. A shelf with touch-screen elements will allow our guides to show visitors the room in various configurations, as well as images of the painting, print, and documentary sources used in the restoration of the room. A “touch and feel” section will include samples of the flocked wallpaper and pieces of the curtain and cushion fabric. Locating this area along the south wall will allow visitors to have an unencumbered view of the 18th-century Parlor as they face the fireplace. We are delighted that this grant means we will have these finished for the official opening of the room on May 17, 2020. You are all invited!



Completing the Details

It is the small items that really help a room come to life for visitors. We are seeking out more early Worcester wares, dating from between 1760 and 1780, including blue-and-



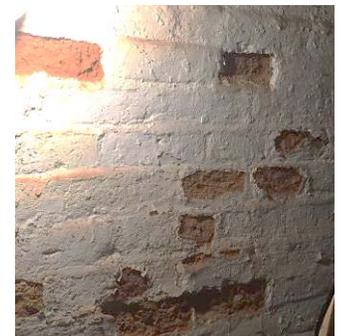
white wares and “pencil” d wares” such as those seen below. We purchased three cups, three saucers, and a coffee cup but are in need of more examples to round out the set. With the purchase of ten air-twist stem wine glasses we are well on our way to representing the three dozen



listed in the inventory, but would like to be able to show more to give people an idea of the quantities in the early records. We also have one glass tumbler to represent the one dozen on the list and are looking for more of this rare form. Other objects mentioned in the 18th-century inventories include 1 dozen glass bottles; a tea set and two large bowls of “burnt china” referring to early Imari porcelain; 3 dozen “blue china plates;” a “Brown Urn; a coffee pot, a salver [footed tray], tankards, cans [18th-century name for a mug], spoons, and candlesticks in silver; a “teaboard,” and three copper items listed as “Teakettle, Coffee pot & chocolate pot.” All of these items need to date from 1750-1780 to be included in the Parlor. We would be delighted to receive donations to help with these acquisitions.

Masonry Project

We are anxiously awaiting word on whether or not we have received a grant from NH’s Land and Community Heritage Investment Program to help fund our ambitious plan to repoint our chimneys, repair our chimney stacks, repair damaged masonry throughout the House, and restore the foundations and brickwork in the House and Counting House. This is a two-year project that will require significant grant monies and private donations. We hope that everyone can help to fund this effort. We are excited that with this project we will have addressed the last remaining significant structural issues in the House.



Dames Celebrate 125th Anniversary

The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of NH formally celebrated its 125th anniversary as one of the corporate societies of the NSCDA with a gala cocktail reception and dinner. The committee, led by President Mary Waples with members Paige Trace, Sherry Cullimore,



Phyllis Gagnon, Sallie Mackie, Beth Goss, Elaine Blaylock, Joan Rice, and staff member Marsha Gmyrek, arranged a wonderful party with elegant decorations and delightful food. It was a night to remember

that included a “sneak peek” at the Parlor restoration in its nearly completed state, 18th-century style musical entertainment, and amazing floral arrangements.



National President Anna Duff, seen at right in the Dining Room with Mary Waples, made a special trip to NH to help celebrate this momentous occasion.

Restored Bee Boxes Featured at *Harvesting History*

Our bee boxes have been in need of restoration for some time. Over the winter Keith Trefethen took on the task, and the results are outstanding. The boxes are of a type that has not been used since the mid-19th century, and they are of great interest to historians of beekeeping. Bees were among the featured subjects at our fall event *Harvesting History* that alternates with the *Celebration of Wreaths and Trees* which will return in 2020. This year *Harvesting History*, sponsored



by many area businesses, also included numerous presentations in the House and displays throughout the garden and in the Warehouse. We also held a bake sale, a book sale, and a raffle to help

support our school and youth programs. Joe Marttila of SeaBee Honey, and Amy Antonucci of Seacoast Permaculture both featured bees in their displays, and Marttila brought a demonstration hive and offered his honey for sale. Our new neighbor, the Portsmouth Soap Company (above), was on hand with their products, as were companies featuring fresh garlic, exotic teas, and other items. Inside the House presenters included Kate



Shattuck explaining the process of restoring the Parlor and installing the flocked wallpaper, Kimberly Alexander talking about historic shoes, Sue Polidura giving information to visitors about William Whipple, and Martha Cox sharing information on the conservation

of our paintings. Sandra Rux did a weaving demonstration, and Hollis Brodrick (above) talked about Revolutionary War firearms and other early objects related to Portsmouth History.

Maintenance and Upgrades

Serve with Liberty volunteers (4 of the 25 shown at right) did an incredible amount of work for us in the spring. They painted and repaired fences, raked and cleared out brush, painted benches and arbors, painted the south side of the Warehouse (new construction), and washed windows and dusted in the House. Other projects completed this year include



repairing the attic dormer window sill and finials on the roof balustrade and the front fence. Keith Trefethen also repaired the railings and bannister of the front steps, and restored the louvered door over the front door of the House and fitted it with screens so that it will effectively keep out insects while still allowing for better ventilation in the summer.



NSCDA-NH volunteers helped with painting and cleaning projects including painting half of the white fence in front of the House and painting the repaired fence finials. A congenial group gathered to help clean the chandelier in the Dining Room in September under the direction of conservator Michaela Neuro of Historic New England.



We also completed significant upgrades to the office, bathrooms, and breezeway. Keith Trefethen installed storage cupboards in the breezeway that look like they have been there for 200 years! Jim Moe of Viking Plumbing worked with volunteer Lee Waples to disconnect the deteriorating plumbing in the House that had become a hazard.



The tricky job included some crawl space work that Lee Waples did with great skill (note photo displayed in view of finished bathroom, below). Keith Trefethen

converted the office bathroom door to a pocket door, and repaired plaster and sheetrock after the removal of the bathtub. Lee installed a new faucet in the Guides Room, a new toilet in the public bathroom, and installed new floors in the office and public bathroom. Jim Higgins built a storage



shelf for the public bathroom that will keep extra supplies clean and dry. The result is that the House is safe from plumbing leaks and the modern bathrooms are more spacious, efficient, and pleasant!

The front room of the office now has new lighting and new shelving. Major alterations in the arrangement of filing cabinets and archival and book storage have made it possible to add another workspace to the front office. Anyone willing to help with the ongoing task of re-housing files and archives, please contact the office at (603) 430-7968.

Credit Cards Accepted!

The Counting House is now accepting credit cards for purchases and for admission to the museum. Our new system seems to be working well. Donations can be made online through the Just Giving “button” on our website where you can make a donation earmarked for the museum through our 501(c)(3) parent organization, The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of New Hampshire. If you are giving by check, please make them out to NSCDA-NH. Thank you!!

Ongoing Programs

We were pleased to welcome two groups of Girl Scouts for our overnight programs in May. The girls really enjoy learning about the women who lived in the House.



They make marbled paper to serve as covers for the journals they write about the experience. They write their journal entries with a quill pen – a skill that they find challenging and sometimes rewarding.

Within a day of our first overnight we were again one of the sites for Pro-Portsmouth’s annual Children’s Day event. It was another rainy day, although not as rainy as

in 2018, and we had 1050 visitors in the space of four hours. It was hectic and fun as usual. Many thanks to



everyone who helped with the preparations as well as on the afternoon of the program

Our other annual event, Twilight Tour, took place in early August. We join with other members of the Portsmouth Historic Sites Associates to hold this event, and our annual “Life and Death in the Piscataqua” symposium every year. The symposium takes place in February. Follow us on Facebook or contact the office for further information on the 2020 program.

New Acquisitions

The Parlor Restoration project has been the driving force behind this year’s additions to the collection. We purchased several cups and saucers of the type described in the 1768 inventory of the House as “English pencil’d ware” and added eleven 18th-century glasses to the collection. Gifts from Barbara and Gerald Ward and Jane Nylander added to our Worcester blue-and-white porcelain to represent the “blue and white” set in the 1786 inventory. The committee, after long consideration, purchased some reproductions to flesh out the furnishing plan, including a rug similar in size to the one listed in the early inventories, and a reproduction tea table made by Allan Breed for the *Portsmouth Furniture* show in 1992.



NSCDA Awards Attingham Scholarship to Director



The Attingham Summer School is an intensive three-week study of country houses and gardens in England. The NSCDA awards one

scholarship nationally to the program each year, and our director, Barbara Ward, was this year’s recipient. She was particularly excited to see objects and rooms related to our collections such as the Print Room at Uppark,(right) the



Chinese Chippendale chairs at Audley End (right), and many examples of flocked wallpaper. Barbara gave a talk on her experience for the September NSCDA-NH membership meeting at the Moffatt-Ladd House.



New Website Launched

Jack Earl redesigned our website, www.moffattladd.org, and it is now up and running. It has a different operating system than our old site and some of our old features and documents are not yet posted, but will be soon. Please visit the Moffatt-Ladd House and Garden Facebook page www.facebook.com/moffattladd for timely updates. NSCDA-NH is launching a separate website in the near future, and the House will be represented on the new Great American Treasures website being launched by the NSCDA nationally.

Treat Education Fund

The Vivian B. Treat Fund for Moffatt-Ladd House and Garden Educational Programs was established to enable us to continue offering our “Exploring Slavery in the Era of the American Revolution” school programs, our summer workshop “Reaching for Truth” for teachers and museum professionals, and to work with schools to develop new programs. An additional grant from the William W. Treat Foundation to the fund provides funds for 2019-2020 programs, giving our efforts a secure future.



Honoring William Whipple

Kittery, Maine, the birthplace of William Whipple, honored the signer with a brief biographical introduction by Marsha Gmyrek and a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence. Maine was formally part of Massachusetts and so is not numbered among the original 13 colonies. Nonetheless, Maine is very proud of its native son, who signed as one of the NH delegates to the 2nd Continental Congress.



Text and design by Barbara M. Ward. Photos by Phyllis Gagnon, Stephanie Hewson, and Barbara Ward.