



# TATE HOUSE GAZETTE

## NEWS FROM TATE HOUSE MUSEUM

*Connecting people to Maine's colonial roots and helping them to discover, imagine, and value the relevance of this history to our lives*

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August 2010

### Tea at the Tate House



In late July Tate House Museum volunteers served tea in the garden. This event, open to the community-at-large garnered several new fans of Tate House as well as providing time for friends and family to get together. **Join us for Tea again on August 27th!**

**Above:** Gail Carter models "proper tea attire", complete with parasol.

**Right,** from left to right: Johannah Hart O'Brien, Mary Lou Sprague and Anne Hewes enjoy the tranquil garden.

Photos courtesy of Judy Tilson.



### Opening Day Festivities!



**Above:** Visitors gathered on the front lawn for the flag raising ceremony and musket firing to begin the festivities.

**Below:** Several reenactors gathered in the sitting room chamber to don period gowns. Photos accompanying this article courtesy of William Hubbell, unless otherwise indicated.

### Volunteer Picnics!

*In lieu of the ever-popular Soup and Connoisseurship programs, THM volunteers have gathered twice for informal, bring your own lunch picnics.*

*Delene Perley recently lead a group of THM Volunteers through the Stroudwater burial ground in preparation for our cemetery tour to be held in October.*



**Below:** Volunteers enjoy an informal gathering in the shade of the hawthorne tree.



Saturday, June 5th dawned rainy and damp. However, true to Opening Day Co-ordinator Sally Lombard's, prediction, the sun arrived in time for

the opening ceremony at 11 am. Re-enactors from Samuel Goodwin Company joined in raising the flag and singing "God Save the King". Muskets were fired and the demonstrations of salting cod, spinning and basket weaving were underway.

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2010-2011**

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Laura Feych Sprague  
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**TATE HOUSE MUSEUM**

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## Volunteer Voices

*I recently asked Dick Kempton, PHD 2010, to tell us more about himself. He graciously answered my (email) questions.*

***I know you are retired. What brought you to Tate House?***

With my training as a social studies teacher and my wife's interest in history, we have always enjoyed visiting historic sites. She has always encouraged me to be docent and when I enrolled in the PHD program, the seed was sown. I was drawn to the Tate House by my interest in the Colonial Period and by the friendliness of the people working at the museum.

***Your carpentry and "fix it" skills have already made their mark on THM. How did you develop (or when or who was your inspiration to learn) this skill / hobby?***

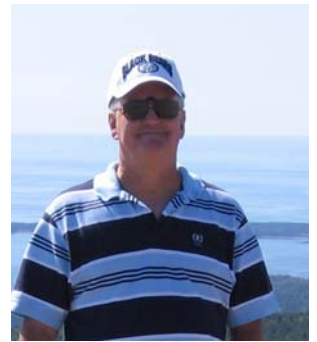
I worked in house construction while I was in high school and in college. I have expanded upon those skills so that I do all of my own home repairs. My woodworking skills have also evolved from home construction to cabinetmaking for myself and friends.

***You live in Cape E now. I remember you telling about working construction in my neighborhood of So Po. Is that where you are from originally?*** I grew up in post war Redbank and Country Gardens in South Portland. Many of the houses in Country gardens have my hammer marks on them!

***What is your favorite thing about working at THM? Do you have any great "aha" moments or stories to tell?*** Bill Hall of the PHD program said that we would have fun and make new friends. That has happened at the THM. I am also enjoying meeting visitors to the Museum. It is still a bit early for "aha" moments, but the closest was when I was shadowing a tour given by Barbara Luke to students from SMCC. Most were fairly new arrivals in our country. When Barbara mentioned 18<sup>th</sup> Century hearthside cooking and using slate instead of paper for school lessons, a few students said that were used to these concepts as they themselves grew up using slates and open fires! Maybe the 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries are not that far apart!

***Do you have children?*** Three grown children throughout New England. Grandchildren? None.

***Hobbies include carpentry, biking and?*** Researching Kempton and Pearson genealogies in Nova Scotia and Massachusetts. Pat and I are also working our way through the homes of Historic New England.



*Dick atop Cadillac Mountain a few days after he retired in 2009. Courtesy photo.*

## New THM Board Members Elected

On Thursday, June 10, about 30 members of Tate House Museum gathered for our annual meeting. The members elected new members to the Board of Directors: Susan Bowditch, Thomas Thomsen, Anne S. Upton and Ann Worster.

The Board also welcomes Martha Timothy, newly elected NSCDA-ME President.

THM wishes to thank Thimi Mina, who served a three year term and Meredith Harding, former President of NSDCA-ME for their dedication to the THM mission.

## Ramble, continued from back page

Farnsworth Chief Curator, Michael Komanecky who is a brilliant scholar and a delightful interpreter, will join us. We have arranged for a box lunch on the grounds of the Olson House.

Our coach will then head down the coast to the **Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens at Boothbay**. The garden, which has only been open since 2007, is Maine's only public botanical garden complex. We will tour the gardens on our own...with enthusiastic assistance from within. There are hillside gardens, a kitchen garden and the Lerner Garden of the Senses to name a few of the colorful exhibits.

We will then head back to Portland with a feeling of fall exhilaration and great fellowship with our Tate House Museum Membership.

**Cost:** \$75.00 per person  
\$65.00 Museum Members

Coach, admission fees and lunch are included.

Sign up by contacting the Museum office and bring a friend!

## Bill Green Tours Tate House

In June, Bill Green from WCSH (Channel 6) visited Tate House. He interviewed Mary Lou Sprague, Peter Cook, Jim Perley and Shirley Hibbard for a story which aired on July 3rd.

Visit [www.tatehouse.org](http://www.tatehouse.org) and follow the link on our home page to view the story!

*Right: Jim Perley (center, in khaki trousers) describes plants in our Colonial herb garden.*



*Left: Shirley Hibbard (left) explains the finer points of Georgian architecture to Bill Green (right).*

Photos courtesy of William Hubbell.

## Festivities, continued from front page

Dozens of people attended and toured the first floor of the house and enjoyed light refreshments served in the Means House parlor.

Many thanks to our intrepid volunteers for their efforts in making Opening Day a success. Many thanks also to our re-enactors from Samuel Goodwin Company and THM's own Linda Charmichael and Gail Root who donned period

dress and visited with guests on the Means House lawn. Anna Barnett donned a lavender gown and strolled the grounds. Adam and Mary Spencer reenacted a colonial style picnic on our front lawn.



*Above: Gutted cod fish prepared for drying.*

*Left: Gail Root with two reenactors from Samuel Goodwin Company. Photo courtesy of Gail Root.*



*Above: Karen Smith demonstrates spinning and carding on the back lawn.*

### TATE HOUSE MUSEUM

## Upcoming Events

Friday, August 27th

**Tea in the Garden**, 2 - 4 pm

Saturday, September 18th

**Yard Sale**, 9 am - 1 pm

Sunday, September 26th

**Ramble**, 8 am - 6 pm

Saturday October 2nd

**Symposium**, 9 am - 2 pm

Saturday, October 30th

**Cemetery Tours**, time TBD



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## Fall Foliage Ramble

Pack your camera and fasten your seat belts ...we have planned a wonderful fall coastal Maine ramble to three important sites. On **Sunday, September 26** we will board our hired coach at 8:00 A.M. and head north to Rockland Maine.

Our first stop will be the nationally recognized **Farnsworth Museum**. We will have an opportunity to see superb works of art that depicts America's growth in the world art since the time of our founding fathers. Two current exhibitions will be particularly interesting to our group. The **Wyeths' Wyeths** is an exhibition that includes the works of NC, Andrew and Jamie Wyeth who all have strong connections with Maine and the Farnsworth Museum. Wyeth paintings are well represented in the permanent collections of the Farnsworth and the Wyeth family has long supported the museum's growth as a major Maine museum.

**Rug Hooking in Maine and Beyond** is an exciting exhibition of rugs that were made in the coastal Maine area. This is exciting folk art that is currently enjoying tremendous popularity in the realm of folk art collecting. A catalogue will also be available. Following the tour of the galleries we will head south to Thomaston and the next stop on our tour.

The **Olson House is the scene of Christina's World**, which was a favorite theme of Andrew Wyeth's work in the Maine area. All of our passengers will recognize the start Maine farmhouse that was a vital and integral subject in Wyeth's paintings.



*The Olson House is the subject of numerous works of art by Andrew Wyeth. Courtesy photo.*

**continued, see "Ramble", page 3**

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*Change service requested.*