

Tate House Gazette

News from the 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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IT'S FUN, IT'S EDUCATIONAL, AND JUST A LITTLE BIT

SPOOKY



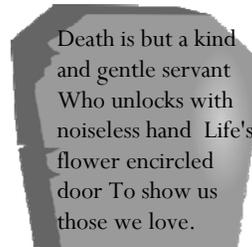
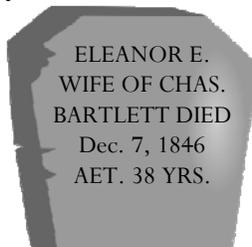
TATE HOUSE MUSEUM WILL BE OFFERING CEMETERY TOURS TWO SATURDAYS THIS FALL OCTOBER 19TH AND THE 26TH ST. COME VISIT STROUDWATER'S MOST PROMINENT CITIZENS FROM DAYS PAST. VIST THEIR GRAVESITES AND HEAR THEIR STORIES!! ADMISSION PRICE WILL INCLUDE REFRESHMENTS

The first mast agent in this area was Colonel Thomas Westbrook. A subject of the King of England, he oversaw the taking possession and harvesting of the area's white pines for the British Navy to use for the masts on their ships. He also bought the land now known as Stroudwater Burying Ground in 1727 to be used as such. He was not buried there however because when he died, he was in debt. His body was buried on Knight's property to avoid arresting the body over the debts. His grave wasn't discovered until 1976. Colonel Westbrook's partner Samuel Waldo inherited his land and possessions because Westbrook was indebted to him at the time of his death. The land was deeded by Waldo to the parish in 1786. Even though you'd be unable to visit Colonel Westbrook's gravesite at Stroudwater Burying Grounds, you can however visit his successor George Tate, Mary Tate his wife, and their daughters-in-law. None of their four sons is buried there.



Visiting Stroudwater Burying Ground will be an experience not soon forgotten. To hear the joys and hardships of the residents there straight from the Specters themselves will not only be educational but just a little **SPOOKY** too. So gather up the family for a day of ghostly fun and entertainment.

A big thank you to Elizabeth Oatley for all her hard work. These tours could not have been done without it.



A Busy Season with a Busy Photographer

The 2013 season at the Tate House Museum has been busy, busy. It started with the wonderful plant sale put on by our garden committee, a grand opening on June 1st, and then hosting a tea for our Dames. From there it went on to two garden tea parties for a local assisted living establishment and a visit and lecture from Scott Scholz deputy director at Dumbarton House in Washington DC. Portland Land Marks hosted the John Calvin Stevens Society event in the Tate House Gardens. Thanks to our dedicated docents, we were able to open the house to our guests and enlighten them on 18th century life in Maine. Barbara Luke donated rum for the occasion for tasting and fundraising. It was a wonderful time that everyone got to enjoy. We're not done yet believe it or not!! Tate House is having the Stroudwater Cemetery Tours this Fall in conjunction with a pie sale. These events will take place the last two Saturdays in October 19th and 26th and a tour is also booked for an archeological

company for the 31st. So even though our "season" ends mid October we just keep on going. Through all these wonderful happenings, there is one common denominator throughout. His name is William (Bill) Hubbell.



William Hubbell photographing Portland Landmarks John Calvin Stevens Society Event at Tate House Museum

Photographer extraordinaire!
 No matter when, or what time, Bill Hubbell is there to capture the essence of the event freezing it in time for the ages. Tate House Museum knows how fortunate we are to have someone of Bill Hubbell's caliber. We just want Bill to know **we know!** Sharon Colgan of Portland Landmarks and Tate House Museum sent this picture which says it all. **Thank You Bill!**

Tea At The Tate House



Gathering Around The Means Parlor

The Tate House Museum Board of Directors invited members of the NSCDA in Maine to afternoon tea in the THM garden on June 18th. It was an opportunity for the dames to see the renovated ell and newly acquired items in the collection, including the clock jack in the kitchen and the Sewall table. The tea gave members of the Dames and members of the THM board a chance to get to know each other better and discuss their mutual interest in, and support of, Tate House. One of the highlights was a visit from our new neighbor, Ayumi Horie. Ayumi is known around the world for her unique and very desirable pottery. It was wonderful being able to meet and spend some time with her. Docents were available for tours and twenty Dames attended. Many thanks to all who helped us prepare for this event and to those who attended in spite of the rain.



Left to right, Dames, Gail Rae Carter and Virginia Link enjoy a photo opp. with Anita B. Jones, Chair of the Board of Directors

Liz Bradley

Museum Office

Fall and Winter hours for the Tate House office will be:

Tuesday - Friday 10AM to 4PM

Office Phone: 207-774-6177

E-Mail Address— info@tatehouse.org

Gift Shop Open Year Round
 (during office hours)

Bird's Eye View



Aerial views of the Tate House Museum complex were obtained this summer by Christopher Roosevelt, PhD., Associate Professor of Archeology at Boston University, using his remote controlled "hexicopter" equipped with a camera. This piece of equipment is

used for research of the 2nd millennium site in western Turkey run by him and his wife, Christina Luke, PhD. It took a side trip to Maine this summer to add photos for



the Tate House Museum while visiting Christina's mother, Barbara Luke, docent at the Tate House Museum.

The photos show the relationship of the museum to the Fore River and the Stroudwater River that was so important to the original placement of the house in 1755. They show the latest renovation, the addition of our new Tate House neighbor, Ayumi Horie, a well know potter, who now occupies what many know as

Opening Day 2013

June 1st dawned hot and sunny – too hot! By noon it was ninety degrees. After months of planning, thirty new docents, long-time docents and members of the Colonial Dames were at the Means House prepared to kick off another summer season at Tate House Museum. The Publicity Committee made sure that opening day information appeared in local newspapers. Volunteers contributed quarts of strawberries and platters of brownies, cookies, and tea breads.

Cont.... Opening Day

Sherry Yancey, floral arranger extraordinaire, brought beautiful bouquets of flowers and made dozens of delicious tea sandwiches. Betty Janus, our site coordinator,



helped keep us focused and prepared lovely brochures for the event. Although we had fewer visitors than I'd hoped for, probably because of the heat, we did get several new members and gift shop sales were strong. Some people took the cemetery tours with Peter Gaulke and Gail Rae Carter and a few took the neighborhood tour with me. However, most people wanted to escape the heat by lingering in the garden and enjoying Tate House punch and sandwiches in the Means House parlor. It was a lovely day and it was wonderful to see so many people willing to volunteer their time to the museum. Many thanks to all of you.

Liz Bradley

Save the Dates

September 21 Stroudwater Village Day

Parade begins at 10AM

October 19th and 26th

Stroudwater Cemetery Tours with Refreshments and Pie Sale

November 5th

Tate House Gift Shop Sale and Thank You Reception for Docents, Volunteers and Members with 20% off all sales.

November 23rd

Museum Shoppers Day at Gilsland Farm

EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Tate House Museum Board Welcomes Two New Members

Diane Hoppe as Education Chair and Gail Rae Carter



Diane's interests and background are interdisciplinary in nature and apply to many facets of the Tate House Museum. Before raising a family in the suburbs of Boston, Diane went to school and worked in the retail industry. Fascinated by the City of Boston, and the surrounding region, Diane studied architectural history, and couldn't pass a museum without visiting it. After her move to Maine in 1998 to be near family,

Diane's life-long interest in learning led her to an Interdisciplinary Studies program at the University of Maine at Augusta. In 2004, Diane was selected as the George J. Mitchell Peace Scholar for her commitment to enrichment education and community service. At the University College Cork, in Ireland, Diane studied folklore and medicinal plants. While there, Diane also participated in the multi-media project "How's it Goin' Boy". This project included radio interviews of the people of Cork about their relationship to their city. This project sparked a curiosity about the relationship of New Englanders and their sense of place.

As a graduate student of American and New England Studies at the University of Southern Maine, Diane focused on regional and environmental history. During her graduate internship, she contributed to the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village and Museum's 2008 exhibit "The Human and The Eternal." Her work focused on the exhibit's collection: researching, documenting, cleaning, photographing, and accessioning. Because of Diane's interest for museums that told the histories of people and place, she worked with Old Fort Western, in Augusta, Maine.

Realizing the unique and complex management issues that face small museums, Diane continued studying Non-Profit Management with a focus on museum management.

During her time as the Executive Director of The Rufus Porter Museum, Diane was part of the museum's impressive expansion. With the museum's board, she guided the museum in translating a broader history of western Maine, focusing on the region's 19th century muralists. To help the museum move forward with a new strategic plan, Diane was responsible for multiple education and collections grants. She coordinated publications and managed multi-day educational events that introduced the public to traditional and regional arts. These were important income producers for the museum.

The Tate House Museum holds many stories about the early interactions of Maine people and their environment. Like England's relationship to Ireland, The Tate House represents the early history between England and the colonies. Diane feels that she can contribute to the museum's goals in a variety of ways through her expertise and interests in museum education, fundraising, event planning, financial management, and sustainable growth.



Gail Rae Carter is a widely experienced, super energetic and highly recommended educator. For the past twenty-five years she has been involved in education, the last twenty one as a teacher of history at Greely High School in Cumberland Center, Maine. One of the courses she taught there was Maine History, which included a segment on the Mast Trade.

Growing up in Washburn, Aroostook County, Gail learned the town's early settlers were deeply involved in agriculture and potatoes as well as the mills and lumber industry, which inspired her to become interested in history.

cont.....

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2013

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Anita B. Jones

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Andrew Stickney

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Chris Dargie

*Secretary***DIRECTORS:**

Elizabeth Bradley

Gail Carter

Richard Gilbane

Diane Hoppe

William Hubbell

Christina Jackson

John Robinson

James Stenberg

Anne S. Upton

Cont...

Later, in 1960, Gail graduated from the University of Maine, Orono with a degree in American History and highest departmental honors. While in college, she was mentored by Dr. Robert York who introduced her to the Tate House and its American Revolutionary role in our state's history. As a lifelong learner, Gail has continued her education and has been credited with over 60 graduate hours, mostly in history, again with high honors. At one point she wrote a paper entitled "Pre-revolutionary Religion in the Kennebec Purchase: Judge Jonathan Bowman vs. the Reverend Jacob Bailey." The paper is on file at the Lincoln County Historical Association and at the University of Maine.

Gail belongs to the Maine Historical Society, the Mayflower Society, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the United Empire Loyalists of Canada and Friends of the State Museum, as well as the National Society of the Colonial Dames of American in the State of Maine, which she joined with Mary Lou Sprague as one of her sponsors. In addition, she is a member of the Victoria Mansion and the Portland Museum of Art. Gail's museum experience includes serving twenty-five years as a member of the Maine State Museum Commission. Her interest in the lumber industry caused her to be instrumental in helping the museum acquire a Lombard Steam Log Hauler, which is currently on exhibit. Gail is looking forward to work as a docent for the Tate House Museum and helping with educational programming, as well as serving on the museum's Board of Directors.

**Tate House Museum's Summer Intern
Funded by a Grant From Skidmore
College.**



This past spring, I was in the Skidmore College library searching for an internship for the summer. As a history major, I wanted to try out a potential career path in museum work. I was drawn to the Tate House, impressed by the images I found online. I called a number I found on the website, reached Betty Janus and asked her if the museum would take on an intern. She contacted with Anita Jones, who in turn put me in contact with Laura Sprague and by May, I had secured the position and a stipend from Skidmore's Summer Funded Internship Awards program. In the end, I selected the Tate House because everyone I talked to was welcoming and seemed excited to have me.

One of my two projects for the summer, set for me by Laura was a maintenance chronology, a record of all the changes ever made to the Tate House. The house has a long and colorful history of restorations since the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Maine (NSCDA-Me) purchased it in 1931. These restorations have both preserved the house and become an integral part of the museum in themselves. The restorations have left a physical record of how preservation methods have changed over almost a century. After a summer of pouring over boxes of yellowed records, I have completed my chronology, a written record to accompany the physical. It can be used by docents answering questions, building committees planning restorations, and anyone curious about early Tate House changes. I had a great summer interning at the Tate House Museum, and I am glad to have contributed to such a valuable institution and historic building.

“A Good Time Was Had By All”

Happy Memories Tate House Toots



Years ago, “When our Hearts were Young and Gay”, the Tate House proposed that, for fun, education, and hopefully profit, we could offer a few architectural and historical SPREES. I suggested we call them “Tate House Toots” in remembrance of my parents’ strategy for when we kids had cabin fever. They would toss us into our red Pontiac and take us on an escapade for a cultural and attitudinal “adjustment”.

Our Committee arranged big TOOTS and little TOOTS. We popped off to Plymouth Plantation, Wilmington Delaware ,Hartford Connecticut and many other fascinating destinations where we delighted in beautiful decorative arts, prized museum houses and rare gardens and grounds. We had great fun staying in choice hotels, being guided by knowledgeable docents and absorbing information that we could bring home and apply to our task of improving our visitors’ Tate House experience. We tapped into local denizens for visiting private homes as well. “Toots”, needless to say, were eye-opening experiences in many ways.

We all have wonderful happy memories, but one stands out as splendid! On an autumn day, a busload of Dames and enthusiastic friends headed off down east. Gertrude McCue, owner of the historic Claremont Hotel in southwest harbor, offered to house us there. Northeast Harbor and Bar Harbor intrigued us. Gertrude had kindly arranged for us to visit special gardens,(the Asticou and the Thuya), houses, and a fabulous book store. The latter, called Port in the Storm, is an early building situated at the river’s edge, and was owned by Linda Lewis, a Maine Dame! Our “toot” continued to Machias where we had special tour of Burnham Tavern, then jumped into our bus again, and headed off for the Roosevelt summer home in Campobello!

We meandered along the coast toward the Ruggles house in Columbia Falls. It is a graceful and delicate Federal Style house that has been

lovingly cared for and restored over the last 10 years. (All lovers of Landmark buildings would do well to treat themselves to this treasure.)

Circling back to Somesville, we were entertained in Gertrude’s fabulous old home. Of simple Maine architecture, it sits amidst rocky fields. What a glorious sunset we shared looking out over the rolling Camden Hills!

Every trip from beginning to end—the planning of our “Toots”, the experiences of the trips themselves, and the precious camaraderie - is a cherished memory that I value to this day.

And a Good Time was had by all!

Mary Lou Sprague

Tate House Garden is Growing

For the first time in several years there were tours in the Tate House Garden. Its reputation is growing! Huntington Commons Sunrise Senior Living facility in



Kennebunk brought two groups to the garden this summer. Ginny Bishop hosted them with assistance of Theresa Libby and Joan Hatch. The June 20th tour was an ideal garden day with beautiful sunshine and



the heirloom roses blooming. On July 10th the weather didn't cooperate for an outside tour so Ginny brought the garden inside with representative cuttings for a discussion in the Means House Lafayette Parlor. This was followed by tea with herb cookies made by Theresa. Then on August 28th the garden was the venue for the Landmarks John Calvin Stevens Society evening rum tasting. If you haven't stopped by to see the garden in awhile you will notice some changes. The yard is being cleared almost to the Stoudwater River. This provides a beautiful peaceful vista when looking out. When the geese swim by it seems as if you are far away from downtown Portland! An unobtrusive fence by the water keep the geese in the water and not in the Tate House yard. A new compost "bin" has been created by volunteer master gardeners.

Cont....

Cont.... **Garden is Growing** Barbara Luke



This helps recycle the garden clippings and weeds in a green and neat manner. The pebble pathways have been refurbished and the irrigation system in the beds continues to keep

the plants growing during the periods of drought. Plants, and unfortunately weeds also, continue to grow but are tended weekly by our growing number of garden docents and volunteers. More are always needed. As fall and winter approach we are getting the garden ready for "bed". We need pine needles for mulch in the beds and also to cover the dirt path on the side of the Tate House. If you have any please bag them and put them behind the garage. We never have enough.

Stroudwater Village Association News



Stroudwater Village Association (SVA) is holding Village Day again this year on Saturday, September 21st from 10 to 2. **Everyone is welcome!**

As usual the day will begin with a parade moving from the circle at the end of Westbrook Street to the green at the foot of Waldo Street. There will be fire trucks, police cars, decorated bikes, our honorees for this year, local dignitaries and of course the Stroudwater Light Infantry.

The ceremony this year will honor neighbor Bob Dobrowkowski and pastor Dan Drake both of whom have given of their time and talent to the association and the Village over the years. Hear all about it at the brief ceremony following the parade. A favorite highlight of the day is the lunch, sponsored and prepared by the Men's Club of the

There will be hamburgs, hot dogs, pulled pork, chips, baked beans, and cole slaw, not to mention apples and the usual awesome assortment of homemade cookies. **All this absolutely free!**

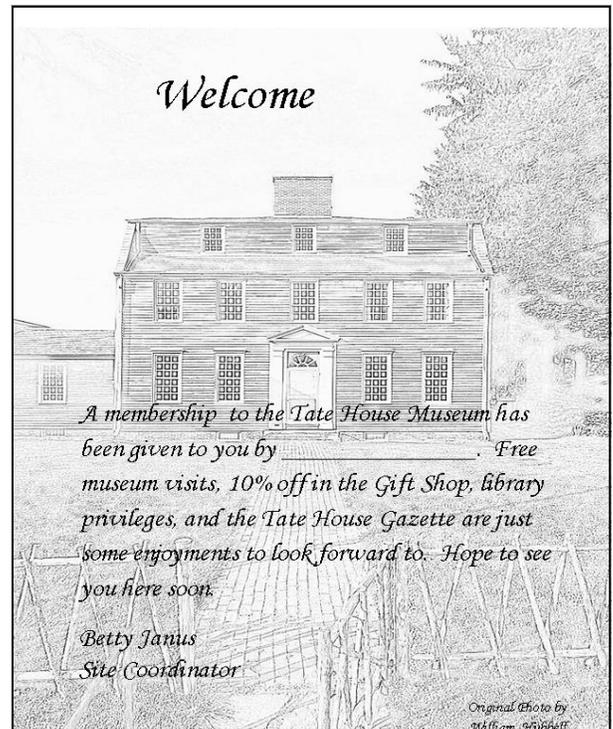
Tate House will be offering free house tours for its neighbors and this year we are including an exhibit of crafts from our artistic neighbors, as well as music by the Island Beats and Sparks Ark. It's lots of fun for the whole family, so please do come and have some fun.

Anita B. Jones

Holidays Are Coming

Tate House has started a new campaign effort to build our membership. We are now offering gift membership for all levels. Membership gifts are available for any occasion and can be customized to fit. A card is sent to the recipient letting them know they've received a gift membership and from whom. Shortly after that memberships cards are sent. It's a thoughtful gift and one that can be enjoyed all year long. For more information or to order your gift memberships contact:

Betty Janus 207-774-6177 info@tatehouse.org



Did You Know



The first naval battle of the Revolutionary War was fought off Machias, Maine in 1775. The **Battle of Machias** (also known as the **Battle of the Margareta**) was

the first naval engagement of the American Revolutionary War. It took place on June 11–12, 1775, in and around the port of Machias in what is now eastern Maine, and resulted in the capture by Patriot militia of a British schooner.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Machias

Tate House Museum
1267 Westbrook Street
Portland, ME 04102
207-774-6177
www.tatehouse.org

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I wish to remain anonymous *