



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

Volume XIX, Number 1

March 2010

OPENING DAY



OPENING DAY

SATURDAY

JUNE 5TH, 2010

10 AM

JOIN US!

Spring Ramble
info on page 3

News In Brief

Members of the Board of Directors recently attended a retreat and mapped out strategies for a successful 2010 season. Committee structure will be a high priority and we are delighted with the active participation of so many members in meeting the needs of the Tate House Museum.

New Board Member, **Theresa Libby**, has settled in to her role as Treasurer and over all Keeper of the Exchequer. She is in the office regularly on Tuesdays and handles all of our book keeping.

New Board Member, **Dick Gilbane**, is now chairing the Nominating Committee and is pleased with the number of outstanding candidates who want to join the Tate House Museum Board.

Sadly, Board Member **Jim Perley** resigned from the Board in February. His presence as a key player in policy decisions and leadership will be missed. Jim remains a steadfast supporter of the museum and feels that he can be most effective in giving good counsel to Board Members and selectively participating in museum activities.

Mary Lou Sprague has answered the call to Chair the Development Committee for the museum. She will be coordinating all fund-raising activities so that we avoid duplication of efforts.

continued, see "In Brief", page 2

Upcoming Events

Maine Country Auction • 8:30 am Saturday, May 1st, 2010

Plant Sale • 8 am Saturday, May 29th, 2010

Opening Day • 10 am Saturday, June 5th, 2010

Annual Membership Meeting • 9 am Thursday, June 10th, 2010

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2009-2010**

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Chair

Theresa Libby
Treasurer

Christina Jackson
Secretary

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Richard T. Gilbane
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Thimi R. Mina
Mary Lou Sprague

STAFF

Heidi L. Gage
Office Administrator

TATE HOUSE MUSEUM

1267 Westbrook St.
Portland, ME 04102
207.774.6177
www.tatehouse.org
info@tatehouse.org

In Brief, continued from front page

Consulting Curator

Laura Fecych Sprague who has served the Tate House Museum for over twenty years is stepping up to a new multi-faced role at the museum. This month she returns to her curatorial duties in a highly structured and effective new role. She will continue her ongoing curatorial activities in the research and disposition of the collections. She will also take on two distinct additional responsibilities: The furnishings plan research will continue with primary emphasis on the kitchen. She has a specific allotment of hours for this work.

The third aspect of her job description will be to participate in research and oversight of the Tate House Museum building fabric in terms of preservation and interpretation.

Laura is a font of knowledge of our museum and collections. Her work is being funded through a donated grant and authorized support from our general operating budget. She is eager to continue her work with the Collections and the very active Building and Grounds Committees.

1. Boom auger: a 3 to 4 inch auger used to bore holes through logs to put boom chains through.
2. Candy side: The crew of a high-lead camp which has the best equipment. The other side is naturally the haywire one.
3. Whiffletree: a bar of wood with a hook on it, used to drag logs out by horses. The horses' harness was hooked on to trace chains which in turn hook on to the whiffletree.

PHD Program

The Tate House Museum is well represented in the Portland History Docents program that trains docents for interpretive work in Portland's historic sites and museums. The program, which started in February, will consist of weekly meetings and tours through April.

We have already determined that many members of the "class of 2010" want to join the Tate House as docents and active volunteers. **Delene Perley** is coordinating the PHD docents this year and her enthusiasm is contagious.

Soup and Connoisseurship

Our monthly Soup and Connoisseurship programs have resumed this winter. **Peter Cook** recently gave us a presentation on the architecture of the bake oven. He reviewed bake oven use and construction and designed evolution during the colonial period. Members Theresa Libby, Shirley Hibbard, Heidi Gage and Barbara Luke brought food and utensils for the evening presentation which had to be rescheduled on a Wednesday due to our ever changing winter weather.

Additional Soup and Connoisseurship gatherings that have been scheduled are:

- History Ornamental Plastering (March 16th)
- Mapping New England in the 18th Century (April 13th)
- Baking with 18th Century Herbs. (June 15th)

Volunteer Voices

Meet Theresa Libby, Treasurer at the Tate House Museum! She first heard of the Tate House Museum about 12 years ago when she brought her two daughters here for a visit. As luck would have it, a few years later, during an auction at McAuley High School, Theresa bid on and won a membership to Tate House Museum. Included with the membership was an issue of the *Gazette* that talked about the PHD (Portland History Docents) program.



Theresa has been known to don period dress for special museum events.

Around the same time, Theresa resigned from her position in a busy physician's office and decided to fill some of her free time with the PHD program and began working as a docent at the Tate House.

She started coordinating the gift shop four years ago when the then-director solicited volunteers from the docents. Locating appropriate items, usually kitchen or garden related, for the shop is an enjoyable challenge for her. The gift shop is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the moment, with extended hours in the summer months.

In September 2009, Theresa became the Treasurer for the museum. She spends one day a week here in the THM office paying bills, making deposits and overseeing fiscal matters for the museum. Her expertise is greatly appreciated!

Theresa explained, "my love of history sprung from my craft work. I wanted to know the history of my crafts and that led to me want to know more about the daily lives of women in colonial times. I often wish I could time travel back to those days!" Theresa's hobbies include: spinning, penny rugs, rug hooking, needlework, knitting, and stamping. Somehow, she also finds time to serve as bookkeeper for her husband's business (Dan Libby Refrigeration, Heating and Air Conditioning).

Did you know...

The ski trails at Sugarloaf are named after various logging terms. Mary Lou Sprague recently provided a list of trail names (and their definitions) at Sugarloaf. Do you know the definitions of these words? (*answers on preceeding page*)

1. Boomauger
2. Candy side
3. Whiffletree

Spring Ramble

An exciting Ramble is being planned for a weekend day in June. Three fantastic house museums will be open to our group on this tour to Portsmouth, New Hampshire and the Berwicks.

The **Macphedris -Warner** House built in 1716 in Portsmouth is considered one of the finest eighteenth century masonry houses in New England. The collection includes great murals and decorative arts of the eighteenth century. The breathtaking interior will be a great experience for our group.

The **Moffat -Ladd House**, also located in Portsmouth, was built by Captain John Moffatt in 1763 is a stunning mansion owned by the NSCDA of the State of New Hampshire. This house has spacious manicured gardens and a great collection of portraits and decorative arts.

Plans are still being made for a box lunch or special dining venue.

Off to South Berwick where **Hamilton House**, a Georgian building dating to 1785, is located overlooking the historic Salmon Falls River. This picturesque setting complete with formal gardens is often considered to the one of the most beautiful historic houses in New England.

Tare Shirt Farm, a working eighteenth century farm, is located in Berwick, Maine. The farm is dedicated to wool, spinning and weaving. Peter and Nancy Cook will be touring the farm with its historic livestock and extensive collection of textiles, furnishings and related equipment in their spinning and weaving barn.

The Ramble will be a great way to start your summer of visiting area historic sites and facilities.

Contact the office (info@tatehouse.org) or call 207.774.6177 for more information!

Plans for the Garden in 2010

Jim Perley, chairperson of the Garden Committee, recently reported there will be a new garden this year at the Tate House!

This past fall, several members of the Garden Committee, including Marilyn Brinnick, Ken Brinnick, Deb Locke and Jim Perley worked diligently to prepare a new garden bed. They removed ground cover (mostly thyme which had grown rather wild) and had the soil tested. Test results showed high levels of lead in the soil, which means the the garden produce will not be suitable for consumption.

"It makes sense that the Tate's would have a garden immediately available to the kitchen," said Jim Perley. "There may have been regular trips to a market in Yarmouth, but the existence of gardens containing commonly used vegetables and herbs was confirmed at the Symposium last fall."

Jim went on to mention the expert research presented by John Forte and Rudy Favretti at the 2009 Symposium which supports the Garden Committee's decision to create this new garden.

"The new garden at Tate House Museum will contain plants that are documented to have existed in 18th century gardens," said Jim. "We will begin planting after the last frost [after May 31st]."

Plants for the new kitchen garden will be purchased through a grant from the Master Gardeners.

Stay tuned for updates on this exciting project and remember that garden tours will begin June 17th! If you are interested in working with the Garden Committee, please contact Jim Perley (jamesperley@gmail.com) or the museum office phone 207.774.6177 or email info@tatehouse.org.

Volunteers!


























































Dear Docents and Greeters,

We have a new sign up procedure. Instead of a wall calendar, we are asking volunteers to sign up in the calendar book in the kitchen (near the window). You can also call or email the office and Heidi would be glad to reserve your favorite day(s) and time(s) to volunteer in the book!

Kindly remember that we do count on you to be here for the days and times you sign up for. In the event you are unable to be at THM on a day you are scheduled, please find your own substitute (we have a list of volunteers).

At this time THM does not have an employee or volunteer dedicated to coordinating volunteers, so we are relying especially heavily on our volunteers to be conscientious in their time commitments here.

Finally, please take a moment to fill out and return the survey on page 7! We want to know you better!

Boxwood hedge															Rosmary (potato)
	Potatoes, (2)	Carrots, (16)	Not Planted	Peas, (8)	Peas, (8)	Peas, (8)	Not Planted	Leaf Lettuce, (16)	Not Planted	Not Planted	Not Planted	Not Planted			
															
	Potatoes, (2)	Carrots, (16)	Sage, (1)	Sage, (1)	Beets, (9)	Beets, (9)	Onions, (9)	Leaf Lettuce, (16)	Dill, (9)	Garlic, (4)	Beans, (4)	Cucumbers, (2)	Red kidney Beans	Betony	
															
Basil, (2)	Carrots, (16)	Leeks, (6)	Cabbage, (1)	Cabbage, (1)	Cabbage, (1)	Onions, (9)	Leaf Lettuce, (16)	Turnips, (9)	Garlic, (4)	Beans, (4)	Cucumbers, (2)	Red kidney Beans	Speckled Beans		
															
Potatoes, (2)	Calendula, (2)	Leeks, (6)	Chives, (1)	Chives, (1)	Radishes, (16)	Radishes, (16)	Chervil	Chives, (4)	Turnips, (9)	Fennel, (2)	Parsnips, (9)	Cucumbers, (2)	Lovage	Speckled Beans	
houseleeks (inter-planted)															

Above: Proposed kitchen garden

Building Committee Update:

Masonry Preservation at the Tate House

In the fall of 2009 the Building Committee engaged Masonry Preservation Associates (MPA) to begin repairs on our historic structures. Their scope of work included rebuilding some foundation corners and remedial work (including repairing mortar patches from removal of old pipes etc.). They also addressed a drainage issue (ponding by the bulkhead) by auguring a hole, filling it with crushed rock and connecting it to the perimeter drain system.

MPA also located several rotten stair treads on the stairs to the basement, which they will be replacing with lumber obtained through an architectural salvage company (Barnstormers-John Rousseau). MPA will return in the latter part of March to complete the clean up and replace treads at Tate House.

Pete Chavonelle, project manager for MPA reported they obtained baseline measurements to record movement in the masonry foundation at the Tate House. While the foundation appears stable now, the outer wythe of brick has rolled out, allowing water to run towards house from the front step which tips inwards. The outer wythe has water behind it and the load is borne by the outer sections. Proper repair may require the granite step to be pulled away from the front of the house.



Above: Building committee members Barbara Luke and Dick Gilbane located a major crack in the arch at Tate House.

Right: They also photographed a spot where we have a glance of the old ell foundation in the basement.

Photos courtesy of Richard Gilbane.



MPA also spent some time at the Means House, attempting to stay ahead of weather infiltration. Pete reported the chimneys are in varying states of repair and that the visible cementacious stucco not original. This type of stucco creates a vapor barrier to the brick chimney ultimately resulting in the mortar turning to powder.

Kudos to the Building Committee for their diligent work on our historic structures! Mark Sengelmann is the chairperson of the Building Committee which meets at 8:30 am the third Tuesday of each month.

Please note, there will be a Spring Clean up day scheduled soon. Contact the office at 207.774.6177 or email info@tatehouse.org for more information. Remember, many hands make light work!

TATE HOUSE MUSEUM ANNUAL HERB SALE

May 29th, 2010

8:00 AM until noon

Support Tate House Museum as you plan and plant your garden.

Herbs come from Broadway Gardens but the proceeds benefit museum programs. We will gladly accept donations (to sell) of your own potted perennials with information about color, sun/shade, and height.

For more information
contact info@tatehouse.org or
call 207.774.6177



Quotable Quotes...

Some day, following the example of the United States of America, there will be a United States of Europe.
--George Washington

Let us tenderly and kindly cherish, therefore, the means of knowledge. Let us dare to read, think, speak, and write.
--John Adams



Just for Fun

Welcome to the Tate House Museum

N G S V Y F G G S G L N R B P A J P Y E
E A S T R O U D W A T E R E M P H E R A
H R W F A S H I P S S Z M A T M I U A A
C D M I N V Y Z A E D Q R M H A T N M M
T E D G O S E M A D Y O A Z A C T M E A
I N S P I A P A A B I Y W B E R J X O K
K H L B T R G L O D Y I U T C E T M C T
X P V M U V D Z Y X X Y I N O T S L H Y
T S T D L V O Q M T N H F G L X Y D F C
F Y B Y O S J L R D C P E B O H Z U E J
U N P G V Q T A U R F D H Y N D W P Y X
S B C D E F D E A N Y Z O U I D N Z T G
S G P R R E I E Z G T K Q E A P O I K U
T W B A I T Y O Z U I E N K L Q I J I W
C F W N R R X L U X G G E S K B J A X P
X C O A M L F H A Y L H T R Y P N W G W
D O C E N T O E O A P A M P S V M Z Y N
Y R O T S I H R N R B B K G P U O I D B
F B B I L K C D Y O K E U F H H H J F Y
Q T X M G N A A J E E J D Q S H U P N D

ARCHITECTURE	MAST
COLONIAL	PARLOR
DAMES	PINE
DIORAMA	REVOLUTIONARY
DOCENT	SHIP
ENGLAND	STROUDWATER
GARDEN	TATE
HISTORY	TRADE
KITCHEN	TRAMMEL
MARY	VOLUNTEERS

YES! We want to join the Tate House Museum!

☐ Individual - \$35

One free admission. 10% discount in shop. 10% discount at Symposium. Access to our library. Invitations to special events. Subscription to Tate House Gazette (4 per year).

☐ Family - \$50

Same as Individual but with 2 free admissions.

☐ Patron - \$100

Unlimited visits to the museum. 10% discount at shop and symposium. Access to our library. Invitations to special events. Subscription to Tate House Gazette (4 per year).

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Please make check payable to:

TATE HOUSE MUSEUM
1267 Westbrook Street
Portland ME 04102

3/2010 THM Gazette

Dear Tate House Museum Volunteer,

Please take a moment to help up learn about you and your interests. Return this survey to the THM office. Thank you for helping us know you better!

Time and Talent Survey

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

When is the best time to contact you?

Morning

Afternoon

Evening

☐☐☐

When are you able to volunteer?

Morning

Afternoon

Evening

Sunday

☐☐☐

Monday

☐☐☐

Tuesday

☐☐☐

Wednesday

☐☐☐

Thursday

☐☐☐

Friday

☐☐☐

Saturday

☐☐☐

How often can you volunteer?

☐

Anytime, call when you need help.

☐

Once a week

☐

Twice a week

☐

1 time a month

☐

2 times a month

☐

3 times a month

Tell us about your skills, talents and interests!

Check all that apply

☐ Docent, house tours

☐ Gardening

☐ Building maintenance

☐ Docent, garden tours

☐ Greeting / Gift Shop Help

☐ Fundraising

☐ Docent, architectural tours

☐ Housekeeping

☐ Publicity

☐ Docent, school tours

☐ Office help

☐ Special programs

☐ Docent, Tate trunk

☐ Refreshment provider

☐ Other (*please indicate*)

☐ Yard work

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Change service requested.



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.”

Maine Country Auction

To Benefit:

TATE HOUSE MUSEUM

*in Historic Broadwater Village
at the Broadwater Baptist Church*

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Viewing 8 – 9:30 a.m

Auction 9:30 sharp

Non-reserved “gavel price” Auction

NO BUYERS PREMIUM

Victuals and Libations on site

NOW RECEIVING TAX DEDUCTIBLE ITEMS FOR THIS AUCTION

AT THM OR CALL 885-9177 FOR PICK UP / FMI

Auction sponsored by:

The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Maine

GO TO WWW.TATEHOUSE.ORG FMI

Tate House Museum is a non-profit 501 © (3)

