



Volume XIX,
Number 7

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.

June 2011

Collections Committee News

Great News! The Collections Committee voted at its March meeting to purchase a fine drop-leaf table, attributed to Samuel Sewall of York, one of colonial Maine's best-known cabinetmakers. While the Tates undoubtedly brought some of their English household with them when they emigrated to Maine, they also would have purchased local furniture as needed. This table, dating 1755-1770, is an exceptionally fine example of the work of local cabinetmakers in the District of Maine. Much of the production of the many cabinetmakers and joiners working in Falmouth in Casco Bay was destroyed in the 1775 naval bombardment. Looking to other major craftsmen is an important way to represent local production and Sewall is among the finest of colonial Maine's craftsmen.



Table attributed to Samuel Sewall

This mahogany table matches in design and construction a maple example in Old York Historical Society's collection,

according to Thomas Johnson, their former curator. Other related examples can be found at the Sayward-Wheeler House, a property of Historic New England, also in York. We were able to acquire this great object at a most reasonable price and are thrilled to have it in the collection.

Dedicated funds from the NSCDA have helped purchase this table but the committee is actively seeking funds to demonstrate the importance of building our eighteenth-century collection. The Robinson family has graciously agreed to have contributions made in memory of Elizabeth M. Robinson support this purchase. Other members of the committee have also offered to help secure this wonderful object for the Museum. The committee is also working on an acquisitions plan for the museum where it hopes to identify new financial support for purchases. If you would like to help with this purchase, please contact Cynthia Griswold, chairman of the collections committee, through the museum office.

The Committee is also working to ready the kitchen hearth for the installation of the clock jack and andirons with spit hooks for the summer season. Be sure to come visit to see these great new objects that improve the interpretation of our National Historic Landmark. *Laura F. Sprague, consulting curator*

Museum Shop is Restocking!

Be sure to stop by our Museum Shop. We are restocking great new items including new seeds, coloring and sticker books, dish towels, note pads, honey, maple syrup, jams & jellies, and of course lots of great books! Come check it out!

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Education Committee News

The Tate House Museum Education Committee has been busy this spring in meeting and training 8 recent graduates from the Portland History Docents program (PHD). Co-chairs Susan Bowditch and Ann Worster worked with Liz Bradley, Margaret Curran, and veteran docents to provide orientation and training for our newest volunteers. Board chair Peter W. Cook conducted two training sessions during the month of May for all docents to meet their new colleagues, as well as to enrich and refresh their interpretation skills.

Susan Bowditch has been working with Dick Kempton to schedule docents for the upcoming season. Surveys were sent to

new and returning docents to determine their availability. A schedule was emailed to docents outlining coverage for the beginning of the season, the last two weeks of June. Using information provided by the surveys, we plan to schedule a month ahead, providing all docents with at least two weeks advance notice.

If you did not receive the availability survey and wish to join us as a docent this season, please contact Dick in the office at 774-6177 or email him at info@tatehouse.org.

We also will have openings for greeters in the gift shop. The Colonial Dames are in the process of scheduling the position of greeter, but we can always use more volunteers!

Mast Agents Membership Level

This year we will have four levels of support and membership. The Board of Directors introduced a new membership level entitled Mast Agent. These members will provide needed support for the growing collection, and for the need to expand the Museum's public education program.

Membership renewal letters were mailed early in June. If we missed you, please complete the Membership Registration form on the next page. If you know someone who may like to become a member, please share the information with



Dick Gilbane speaks at the Mast Agents Dinner

them or contact the office and we will mail them materials. Thanks to those who have already submitted their membership registrations.

Tate House Museum Membership Registration Form

Individual \$35.00

- Free member admission to Tate House Museum
- 2 additional admission vouchers
- Subscription to the "Gazette."
- Advance invitations to Special Events
- 10% discounts on Museum Shop purchases

Family \$50.00

- Free member admission to the Tate House Museum for two adults and all children under the age of 16.
- 4 additional admission vouchers
- Subscription to the "Gazette."
- Advance Invitations to special events.
- 10% discounts on Museum Shop purchases.

Patron \$100.00

- Free member admission to the Tate House Museum for two adults and all children under the age of 16.
- 8 additional admission vouchers.
- Subscription to the "Gazette."
- Advance invitations and admission discounts to Special Events
- 15% discount on Museum Shop purchases
- One free ad for your business in the Gazette

Mast Agent \$250.00

- Free member admission to the Tate House Museum for two adults and all children under the age of 16.
- 12 additional admission vouchers.
- Subscription to the "Gazette."
- Advance invitations and admission discounts to Special Events
- Free admission to three programs planned for gathering of this membership
- 20% discount on Museum Shop items.
- Two free ads for your business in the Gazette

I would like to join the Tate House Museum at the (Individual, Family, Patron, Mast Agent) level. *Please circle membership level.*

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

_____ Email _____

Please mail form and payment to: Tate House Museum, 1267 Westbrook Street, Portland, ME 04102.

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

Return Service Requested

Spring Ramble

THM members and friends examine the beams in the 1670 Swett-Isley House in Newbury during our spring ramble. We also visited the 1690 Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm, the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, and enjoyed a private tour of Fiske & Freeman Early English Antiques in Ipswich.



Summer Hours

We will be open for the season June 18th. Museum tours will start on the hour Wednesday-Saturday beginning at 10:00, and at 1:00 on Sunday. Last tour starts at 3:00.

The museum office will be open from 9:30-4:00 Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. We will also have a weekend site manager who will be in the museum from 9:30-4:00 on Saturday and from 12:30-4:00 on Sundays.