



Handy's Memo From the Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion

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Newsletter No. XIV, Summer 2010

The ABCs of Poplar Hill Mansion

A house was built in 1795, called Poplar Hill Mansion.

But, it was not lived in until 1805.

Children born there were only girls.

Dr. Houston lived there and performed surgeries in the house for years.

Everyone thinks it's haunted.

Families came to stay until the tables were turned.

Ghosts turn the rocking chair around and unfold the bed in the nursery.

Houses burned in downtown Salisbury.

In the parlor room, men smoked pipes and talked about politics.

Jovial children played on the lawn

Kids did their homework in the dining room.

Lonely slaves worked in the corn fields.

Many slaves were required to keep up the house, 17 in fact.

No gum or ink pens are allowed when touring.

Only the woman of the house's head slave had the key to the silver, coffee and sugar cabinet.

People danced in the foyer.

QUILTS covered all the beds.

Rancid water ruined the floor under the Palladian window.

Sarah tragically burned to death in the nursery and now haunts the house.

Tables are turned upside down when it's time to leave.

Upstairs in the attic, is where all the slaves slept in extreme temperatures.

Various families have owned the house since Dr. Houston.

When the dogs chased the servants with food, hush puppies were thrown.

X-rays were not yet invented when Dr. Houston did surgeries.

You can tour the house every 1st and 3rd Sundays for free.

Zebraweavers were embroidered in a rug on the wall on the 2nd floor.

The ABC's of Poplar Hill Mansion was written by Nicole Petersen, Jill Klaverweiden, Lauren Wolz and Savannah Brimer. All are future teachers who will bring their students to tour in the future.

"I teach this strategy to my students as a way for their students to study a topic, put historical things in order, write chronologically, work in groups, and discuss what they have learned, etc."

Laura L. Marasco, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Salisbury University
Director, M.Ed Programs
Social Studies Education
Seidel School of Education

Life Time Members:

Sushma Agarwal
Stephen Bassford
Margaret (Peggy) Buchness
Edward (Ted) Deacon
Gen Deggendorf
Steve Deggendorf
Sylvia and Harrison Langelier
Amy M. Newton
Carol Smith
Barrie Parsons Tilghman
Matt Tilghman, Jr.
Richard and Elizabeth Wootten

Life Time Honorary Member:

Betsy Wolfe

New Members: *

Bob Anderson
Marilyn Becky
Delegate Rudolph C. Cane
Eleanor Mulligan
Brenda and Mark Potts
Louise Smith
Dennis Williams

*In the last newsletter it was wrongly stated that Marilyn Booth, of Four Seasons Garden Club, was the President. She is in fact the Treasurer.

In Memoriam:

The Eastern Shore, and the Mansion, recently lost a wonderful man and Friend. Robert Powell Cannon passed away on May 16, 2010, at the age of 93.

We were very pleased to accept his offer of the five and a half seat privy over a decade ago. It proudly sits in the back yard and is part of the historic tour.

Former Board Member, Linda Lane Will Shewbridge, born on August 31, 1921, passed away on August 10, 2010. She

was very active on the Board beginning in the late 1980's and continuing into the 1990's. We thank her for her generous time and dedication to the Mansion.

Thank You:

Jane and Henry Dibbern recently bought a new automobile at Pohanka and designated the Friends as part of the "Pay it Forward" program. Non-profits in the area receive a donation every time a car is purchased.

Sylvia Langelier stopped by with a shopping bag filled with linen tablecloths and napkins.

Arline and George Mascarich donated a pewter tea service, which now sits in the parlour, wall sconces in the nursery and silver flatware.

Sue Ellen and Jeff Smith contributed to the Mansion 2 bed warmers, already in the nursery, and a lovely turn of the century gown.

Dorothy Warner provided a pair of Staffordshire dogs for the mantle of the large dining room.

David Ganoë donated one of his fine art photographs as a silent auction item.

David Shoemaker and Sue Ellen Smith spent several hours cleaning out the West side border of very overgrown vegetation. This was David's 2nd year helping us out by volunteering his time.

We welcome those who volunteer for a day, a season, a year, or a project. Your help is greatly appreciated.

The Mansion has a formal policy for donations. Please contact the curator if you have a donation or contribution to make.

**Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion
Board of Directors...**

Aleta Davis, Chair
Anne Lampert, Vice Chair and
Corresponding Secretary
Steve Bassford, Treasurer
Jessie Cocci, Recording Secretary
Dean Davis
Cindy Feist
Tutie Foskey
Louise Nock
Chris Russo
Rita Tiso

New Board Members:

Applications are currently being accepted from interested persons to serve on this working Board. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:30 P.M. at the Mansion.

Please send a letter of interest to the Mansion which will include your strengths which embody the mission statement:

The Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion, Inc. is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the fostering and perpetuation of the Federal Period heritage of Poplar Hill Mansion, a public property located in Salisbury, Maryland, listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Historic Tours:

We are open for free tours on the first and third Sundays of the month from 1 – 4 P.M. All other times by appointment and a \$3.00 per person fee, just call ahead. Friends always tour at no charge. We welcome school children and groups of all kinds.

The Mansion is closed on Tuesdays and holidays.

Save The Dates:*

Roaring Twenties Party

Saturday, November 13 7 – 10 P.M.

Annual Yuletide Open House

Sunday, December 5 1 – 4 P.M.
FREE Event

Newtown Christmas House Tour

Saturday & Sunday, December 11 & 12

Tea with Santa

Saturday, December 18
\$5.00 per child

*Additional information in the next newsletter.

View From The Second Floor:

I have just started my fourth year as Curator of this Federal house museum. It is truly cliché, but “where has the time gone?” It is my privilege and honor to serve with the guidance and direction of an open and progressive Board and a City Council who understands the intrinsic value of Salisbury’s oldest documented home.

Most of all I wish to thank the Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion. The overwhelming support for the position of Curator took me aback. You embraced the significance and potential of what this museum offers to the community and visitor alike.

We are striving to restore rather than renovate. Diligently we work to be historically correct. We spend hours learning the stories of the time to make history come alive to all.

Again, my sincere thanks for the supportive letters, e-mails, and phone calls.

Nancy Marasco, Curator

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Clara Gunby (Huffington)
171st Birthday Celebration**

Sunday, September 12 1 - 4 P. M.

Once a year, the Mansion, and all its Friends, celebrates the largest known collection of Clara Gunby (Huffington) fine oil paintings. Ms. Gunby was a native of Forktown, Maryland, now Fruitland. Come hear her story as she actively played a part in the Civil War. Her ancestors will share some of their personal memorabilia as well. Enjoy period desserts and punch. This is a FREE event, appropriate for all.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Tuesday, September 28 1:00 P.M.

The Mansion has had a major facelift. Share our delight with the façade restoration of this fine Federal home. Damaged siding has been replaced with cypress boards, the house has been painted, the doors and shutters have a new shade of green, and the chimneys have been re-pointed. All of this became possible when the Friends received a grant through Urban Salisbury. Thanks, too, to *Ageless Treasures* and crew for a fine job. FREE event, light refreshments.

Fall Luncheon

Wednesday, October 13 11:30 A.M.

Please join us at the Mansion for our Fall Luncheon. Our menu will include a hearty fall soup, chicken salad, green salad, sweet potato biscuits, and a special dessert. Coffee and tea will be served.

We will all enjoy a fashion show presented by *Nancy N.*

\$20.00 per person and reservations are required. Call today so you will not be disappointed! 410-749-1776

Halloween Party

Saturday, October 30, 9 – Midnight

Wear your spookiest or most outlandish costume and see who you will encounter. Past “guests” have included Jack the Ripper and his last victim, Morticia and Gomez Adams and even Elvis, who has definitely not left the building! Perhaps you will meet some of the “former” residents as you wander the halls listening to the sounds of the evening. Come enjoy the night with chillingly delicious treats and non-alcoholic witches brew. Tickets are \$10.00 per person (adults only please).

Dollhouse Raffle



Raffle tickets are available at the Mansion. The drawing will be held on Sunday, December 5th at the Annual Yuletide Open House. You do not need to be present to win. The dollhouse is approximately 22" high, 14" deep, and 20" wide. Tickets are \$5.00 each or a book of 5 for \$20.00.

Our special thanks to the Mini Mansion Miniature Club and Bonnie Lavish.