



Handy's Memo From the Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion

117 Elizabeth Street
Salisbury, Maryland 21801
410-749-1776

www.poplarhillmansion.org

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Newsletter No. XV, Fall 2010

The First Ladies of Poplar Hill Mansion

Martha Dandridge Custis Washington was the First lady as the Mansion's foundation was laid by slaves in 1795.

Martha Wayles Skelton Jefferson was the first Lady when Dr. John and Sarah Huston and family moved into the Mansion in about 1803. He was Salisbury's first surgeon.

Louisa Catherine Johnson Adams, the first First Lady born outside of that the colonies, was the First Lady when Dr. Huston died, freeing his slaves in 1828.

Mary Todd Lincoln was the First Lady when Salisbury experienced its first devastating fire in 1860. It was the same year that the Elm Street Tenement Fire in New York City killed 200 and resulted in a law passed requiring fire escapes on buildings.

Frances Folsom Cleveland was the first lady when Salisbury experienced another major fire. On October 17, 1886 a small fire was discovered at Toadvine's Livery Stable on Dock Street, now Market Street. The fire spread quickly and ultimately destroyed 200 buildings including most of the commercial district. Soon after the fire began, Salisbury requested assistance from the other towns on the shore. Crisfield, Pocomoke City, and Wilmington loaded their fire department steamers on special railroad trains and sent them to Salisbury's aid. The fire was brought under control 17 hours after it began. Twenty-two acres in the center of Salisbury were consumed.

Ida Saxton McKinley was the First Lady when the Huston family sold Poplar Hill Mansion to the Waller Family in 1897. Lloyd Lowndes (Republican), was Maryland's governor.

Louise (Lou) Henry Hoover was the wife of the 33rd President as the City of Salisbury celebrated its bicentennial in 1932. The Queen of the Festival was Carolyn Waller whose father owned the Mansion during this time.

Patricia Ryan Nixon was the First Lady on October 7, 1971, as the Mansion was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Elizabeth Bloomer Ford was the First Lady in 1974 when the Mansion was purchased by Wicomico County and the City of Salisbury.

Michelle Obama was the First Lady as the Mansion underwent a major restoration of the façade including replacing some cypress clapboards and re-pointing the chimneys during the summer of 2010, thanks to a grant to the Friends from Urban Salisbury.

View from the Second Floor:

As we approach the holiday season I have been thinking of things I can do to help the nonprofit that is near and dear to my heart and not break the bank. Let me tell you what I am going to do.

Starting this evening, I will log on to my laptop and go to the website:

www.goodshop.com and order presents for my family. It will ask me who I am shopping for and I will input "Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion". When I place my order from the businesses listed a certain percentage of the sale will come back to the Mansion. Granddaughters Emily and Braylee will receive a gift from Zazzle (12%), grandson Logan from Big Dog (7.5%) and grandson Griffin a toy from Toys "R" Us (2.5%). Daughters, Molly and Jessica will enjoy a treat from Ann Taylor Loft (2.5%), and son-in-laws Brandon and Todd are on the list to receive gifts from Lowe's where the Mansion will receive 2%. Newlyweds Amy Beth (my baby) and Ryan will appreciate a few more items from their registry at Crate and Barrel (2.5%).

By now you get the idea, I hope you will follow suit. A lot of your favorite stores are represented at this site...take a look! It doesn't cost you any more than you would have spent anyway, and they offer some really good specials and coupons. If you don't feel comfortable on the internet, consider buying a personalized brick for the boxwood serpentine garden pathway (the order form is on the last page) or maybe a year's membership to the Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion.

Happy Holidays and Happy Shopping at
www.goodshop.com

Nancy

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:

Connie White
Mr. and Mrs. Davison Hawthorne

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

In Memorial:

Leslie Hayes Russo, born January 20, 1955, wife of Board Member Chris Russo, passed away on October 29, 2010. She was a partner at Otway Russo and very active volunteering with nonprofits.

Thank You:

Harrison Langeler and his family business, Chesapeake Nurseries, Inc. donated 50 boxwood bushes for the serpentine garden.

Sylvia and Harrison Langeler donated a cast iron, 3-tier fountain for the back yard. It will be an integral part of the boxwood serpentine garden and brick pathway.

The women of the Wicomico Garden Club planned and planted the cutting garden with flowers that would have been here 200 years ago.

“I Love Salisbury” event participants from S.U. helped give the Mansion its fall cleaning.

Greg Zaczekiewicz has been searching yard sales to find items we needed. He has brought us flower vases, a lazy Susan, a card table, and a puck lite for the doll house.

Kate Parkinson and Mandy Timmons ghoulishly decorated the Mansion for our Candlelight Tour on Halloween.

Janice Murphy (Frankenstein) and Mike O’Loughlin (Johnny Cash) volunteered at the Candlelight Tour on Halloween.

Gus Tiso appraised an old coin we found behind a drawer in the nursery. The coin has, unfortunately, no real value.

Andy Nunez and Dr. Gianni Hayes have been at the Mansion for book signings. Some of their books feature stories and photos of the Mansion. We have signed copies of their books for sale.

PHM has a working Board of Directors. They do amazing things to make my job so much easier. I appreciate their support.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Annual Yuletide Open House

Sunday, December 5th 1 – 4 P.M.

This is a FREE event. The Four Seasons Garden Club has decorated the Mansion for Christmas. Light refreshments will be served.

Newtown Christmas House Tour

Saturday, December 11 1 - 7 P.M.

Sunday, December 12 Noon - 4 P.M.

Tour six decorated homes and the Mansion.

\$12.00 in advance, \$15.00 at the door.

Purchase tickets at the Mansion.

Cash/Checks made payable to Newtown Association. Present your ticket at L.O.R.A. establishments for 10% off your meal.

Tea with Santa

Saturday, December 18 1 – 4 P.M.

\$5.00 per child includes photo,

Peppermint Tea and sweets

Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be here.

January 2011

The Mansion will be closed for the month of January as we continue our restoration by repairing and painting the hallways and parlor. This is very exciting for all of us involved in historic preservation. The more historically correct we make the house the more value it gains as an educational tool. Watch our progress as we post photos on the website.

GOING GREEN:

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter sent electronically please send an email to: curator@poplarhillmansion.org

****Happy, Healthy, Historic New Year****

We are very excited to complete the boxwood serpentine garden by adding a brick pathway. What a special way to celebrate a special person or event in your life by purchasing a brick. Just fill out this form and mail it back to us at the address below. If you have questions please call 410-749-1776.

***Poplar Hill Mansion
117 Elizabeth Street
Salisbury, MD 21801***

Personalized Brick Order Form for the Boxwood Serpentine Garden Pathway

Bricks are approximately 4" x 8". Each brick will be printed with 3 lines. Each line may be up to 14 characters including spaces. Price of \$50.00 per brick includes printing.

*****PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY*****

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE/EMAIL _____

MESSAGE/SENTIMENT: _____

Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) charitable organization. Your contribution may be deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. You should retain this receipt for tax purposes. You should consult with your tax advisor for more detailed information.

We reserve the right to refuse messages deemed inappropriate for the Boxwood Serpentine Garden Pathway.