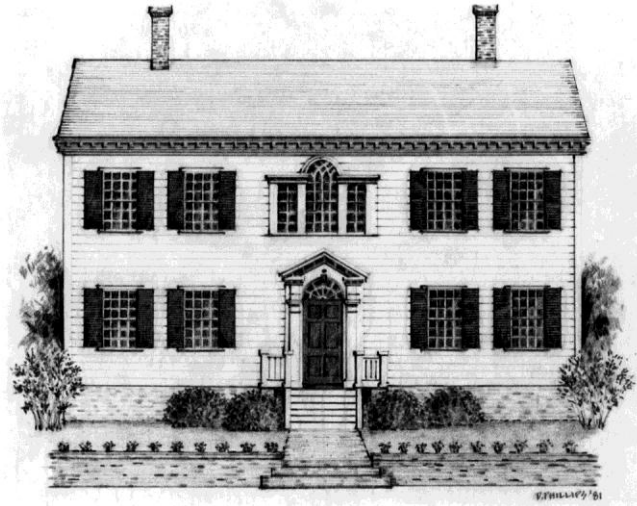


Handy's Memo

From the Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion

117 Elizabeth Street
Salisbury, Maryland 21801
Newsletter No. 5, Winter of 2006/07



Poplar Hill Mansion launches new Website!

In November 2006, the Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion launched a new website featuring the Mansion on the World Wide Web. Visitors can now log on to www.poplarhillmansion.org and read about exciting news and upcoming events, take a virtual tour, and learn about the Mansion's 200 year history. A special thank you should be given to the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore and Beacon Technologies who helped launch the site this past year.

Paint Analysis Project Begins!

The Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion are now actively engaged in restoring the first floor of the Mansion to its original Federal Period paint scheme. Croxon and Ward Company of Locustville, Virginia are working on the historic paint analysis. Once the project is completed visitors will be able to see how the Mansion was painted when it was completed by Dr. John Huston in 1805. Please consider making a special contribution for this extensive undertaking. The Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion will be inviting donors and the public to attend a series of opening receptions as different rooms and areas of the Mansion are completed. Below is a form for a specific monetary donation. Every donor will receive a special gift of gratitude for their contribution. If you would like to stop by the Mansion and see how the work is progressing contact us at 410-749-1776.

_____ *Yes I would like to make a special contribution for the paint restoration work being completed. Enclosed is my check in the amount of _____.*

Thanks for your support!

Facts & Figures about Pre-1875 American Paints

- Course and unevenly ground pigments were usually applied to the wall by hand.
- Dry pigments were typically ground in oil to create a paste which was then thinned by more oil or turpentine.
- In cities such as Boston, Philadelphia, New York and Washington, painters and stainers were often trained guildsmen from England who practiced their craft and also instructed apprentices.
- The palette of colors before 1875 included black and white and grays, buffs and tans, ochre yellows and iron oxide reds, and greens-from copper compounds-as well as Prussian blue.
- The blues which could be produced with Prussian blue in the 18th and 19th centuries were originally often strong in hue. Prussian blue, in particular, was known to be fugitive, which means it faded fairly quickly and thus softened in appearance relatively quickly after it was applied.
- The earliest known book of paint formulations, in an attempt to standardize paint mixes, was published by an American painter in 1812 named Hezekiah Reynolds.
- Some high style houses from the mid-17th to late 19th centuries had wallpaper rather than paint on the walls in important rooms and hallways.
- By the early 19th century it was not uncommon for both stylized graining and marbleizing to be used in simple rural or small town houses. Oftentimes baseboards and stair risers were marbled as were fireplace surrounds.

* **Information taken from the National Park Service *Brief 28*.**

“...Major Handy engage quite easily at that time a painter to give the wood an imitation marble finish. It is done quite cleverly, the background being a dull grey and finishing off with splotches and streaks of blue paint. Up until recently the work has been quite deceiving, but it has now become soiled and pieces have been chipped off showing the wood underneath...” – **Poplar Hill Mansion Waller Family Papers c.1900**

Upcoming Events at Poplar Hill Mansion

Don't miss this year's annual **Victorian Tea** on February 18th 2007! Because of last year's tremendous response the Friends have decided to extend the hours of the tea from 1-4pm. Price of admission is \$10.00 per person and reservations can be made by filling out the form below.

Our **Tea with Santa** event on December 9th 2006 was a hit! Thanks to all the volunteers, parents, and grandparents who made the afternoon a huge success. Santa and Mrs. Claus will definitely be returning to the Mansion in December 2007. Keep your eye out for details in our next newsletter.

Continued Salisbury University Student Involvement

We are pleased to report that the Mansion has seen continued Salisbury University student involvement this past fall. Student intern Rodney Parker received college credit

for working at Poplar Hill Mansion three days a week under the direction of Salisbury University professor Ray Thompson. Parker graduated in December with a degree in history. He hopes to pursue a career in archaeology and ultimately work in an ancient history museum. Rodney also interned at Furnace Town in Snow Hill, where he helped with the archaeology program and educated the public on the history of the region.

Unlocking the Past: A History of Poplar Hill Mansion 1795-1805

Copies of *Unlocking the Past: A History of Poplar Hill Mansion 1795-1805* by Curator Jason Illari are now available at the mansion for \$20.00. Call 410-749-1776 to reserve and purchase a copy. Supplies are limited.

... Three major families became associated with Poplar Hill from 1795-1945. The Handys, who are usually credited with starting construction of the house, lived in or close by the Mansion from 1795-1805. The Hustons* made Poplar Hill their family home from 1805 until approximately 1881. Finally, the Wallers lived in the house from the 1880s until 1945. Chapters II, III, and IV examine these three families and their connection with the Mansion. Chapter V covers Poplar Hill's transition from being a privately owned home to its ownership by the City of Salisbury starting in 1974, and also surveys the history of the Mansion from 1974 to the present day. Chapter VI, *African American Heritage*, examines the institution of slavery at Poplar Hill and also shows how two individuals in particular were able to transition from a life of bondage to one of freedom... (Excerpt taken from *Unlocking the Past*...)

Meetings

The Board of the Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion meets the third Wednesday of each month during the year with some exceptions during July and August. If you have suggestions or comments to share with the Board, please contact the curator at 410-749-1776.

Touring the Mansion

Poplar Hill Mansion is open to visitors on the first and third Sundays of each month from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Admission is free for Poplar Hill members and their families. If you would like to arrange for a separate tour at \$3.00 per person, please contact the curator at 410-749-1776.

Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion Board of Directors

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Victorian Tea at Poplar Hill Mansion!

Join us for this years annual Victorian Tea on February 18th 2007! Because of last year's tremendous response our tea hours have been extended to 1-4pm. Please fill out the form below and reserve your space today! Great food, great entertainment, free guided tours, and a whole lot more! Call 410-749-1776 for more information!

Victorian Tea Response Form:

Yes, I would like to attend your Victorian Tea on February 18th 2007 from 1-4 pm. I am enclosing money for ___ guest(s) at \$10.00 per person.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Tickets: A specific time reservation will be given to guests after payment is received. Send payment to:

*Poplar Hill Mansion
117 Elizabeth St.
Salisbury, Maryland
21801*

Thank you!