



Handy's Memo From the Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion

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Newsletter No. XI, Spring 2009

Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion Board of Directors...

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Upcoming Events at Poplar Hill Mansion...

Christmas in July

Each Thursday in July, starting on the 2nd at 6:30 PM, bring a project you want to have finished by Christmas. Cost is \$5.00 per person.

We'll give you the encouragement and some expertise to complete that Christmas stocking, ornament, tree skirt or pretty much whatever you want to have handmade under the tree for a very lucky person.

Space is limited to 12 so call soon to reserve your spot.

Garage Sale

Help us raise some additional funds by participating in our Garage Sale on Saturday, July 18th. We want those items you are no longer using to help boost our sales. Please make them look spiffy, price them, and call Jane Youngk for more information and drop off times at 410-749-3303.

Please no clothing.

The sale will be on the lawn beginning at 8:00 AM and lasting until 12:00 PM.

If you are unable to donate items then please stop by and find a treasure to purchase.

Crochet a Rag Rug Class

Our last class in April was so successful that we are doing it again!

Thursdays in August at 6:30 PM. \$5.00 per person.

**Become A Friend of Poplar Hill
Mansion...**

<i>Individual Member</i>	\$25.00 yr
<i>Family Membership</i>	\$50.00 yr
<i>Business Membership</i>	\$100.00 yr
<i>Patron Membership</i>	\$100.00 yr
<i>Lifetime Membership</i>	\$500.00

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

All members will receive our quarterly newsletter, *Handy's Memo*. They also benefit from free tours of the Mansion and are invited to numerous events throughout the year, some at no charge and others at a special reduced rate.

Please make checks payable to:

Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion

And mail to:

Poplar Hill Mansion
Attn: Membership Committee
117 Elizabeth Street
Salisbury, MD 21801

Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion, Inc., is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation.

Are you already a Friend? You will be sent an annual renewal letter the month in which you joined and we thank you for your continued support. Please help us increase our membership by passing this along to a neighbor, friend, coworker, or relative who would enjoy supporting Salisbury's oldest home.

Our Thanks...

We are saying a special thank you to just a few of our many generous donors.

*Gen Deggendorf, a long time Friend and former board member, recently donated a very generous check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the Mansion. She has now become a Life Time Member. Gen remains active at the Mansion.

Life Time Members:

Sushma Agarwal
Stephen Bassford
Margaret Buchness
Edward (Ted) Deacon
Gen Deggendorf
Steve Deggendorf
Bob Hogg
Amy M. Newton
Carol Smith
Richard and Elizabeth Wootten

*Last month, the Mansion's landscape benefited from SU's Big Event. We were the beneficiary of 4 hard working students and a videographer (who helped as well). They were joined by members of the Four Seasons Garden Club and several of our own board, who cleaned yard debris, planted flowers, pulled weeds, laid brick edging, and mulched the gardens.

*On April 21st, we celebrated "Texas Tuesday". Texas Roadhouse restaurant donated 10% of the proceeds from dinner for those who brought in our flyer. We left feeling happy and full after enjoying salad, rolls, a nice dinner, and let's not forget the good service.

*Thanks to the Four Season Garden Club who continue their work in the shade garden.

Eli Terry, Sr.

(April 13, 1772 – February 24, 1852) was an influential inventor and clock maker in Connecticut. He introduced mass production to the art of clock making, which made them affordable for the average American citizen. Terry occupies an important place in the beginnings of the development of interchangeable parts manufacturing as he became one of the most accomplished mechanics in New England during the early part of the nineteenth century.

His earliest clocks were fitted with silvered brass dials. The movements of the clock were made of brass or wood, depending on the requests of his customers. Brass was more commonly used for movements, but it was also considerably more expensive and difficult to work with.

In 1801, Terry was granted a patent on an equation clock. This was the first patent for a clock mechanism that was ever granted by the United States Patent Office.

Like other seasoned clock makers, Terry knew that apprentices could cheaply rough-cut wooden wheels for more skilled journeymen to shape precisely into clockworks, making clocks slightly less expensive. Terry was one of a number of clock makers who began to substitute water-power for apprentices in the production of these rough-cut wheels. In 1802 he purchased a grain mill and used the water wheel and main shaft to run saws and lathes, which helped speed the production of parts. He later created jigs and fixtures to produce a large number of interchangeable clock parts.

In 1806, Terry signed a contract to produce 4,000 wooden clock movements (other shops would make the cases). According to historian Diana Muir

writing in *Reflections in Bullough's Pond*, at that time a skilled craftsman could produce six or ten clocks a year. She writes “Terry spent the first two years of the contract inventing and perfecting machinery that could turn clock wheels with enough precision to require relatively little shaping by skilled craftsmen. In the third year he produced 3,000 wooden clocks. He sold his manufactory to two of his assistants, Seth Thomas and Silas Hoadley, and retreated to his workshop to create the first machine in the world to be mass-produced using interchangeable parts.”

Terry's first clocks were offered in plain wooden box cases. He is credited with the design of the pillar and scroll case for which he also received a patent. The upper part was the clock face; the lower part was either a mirror or a picture back-painted on glass. Despite the small size of the clocks compared with traditional long case clocks, Terry was able to provide sufficient power through gearing for the clock to run a full thirty hours before it needed to be rewound.

Salesmen devised the now-familiar marketing scheme of installment plan purchases and model changes of the cases to induce consumers who already owned a functional clock to buy a more fashionable model.

His achievements placed him in an unusual position as one of the last of the clock craftsmen, but also as the first of the true manufacturers. His shop represents one of the last Connecticut clock shops which there was both pride in workmanship and a high level of personal skill and aptitude.

Come see our Eli Terry clock on the 5” wide parlour mantle!

View from the Second Floor...

Well, I am about to begin my third year here on the second floor at the Mansion. I just have to say, again, how pleased I am with all that has been accomplished with the help of the very active and supportive board of directors, listed on the front page of this newsletter.

Some projects which we were talking about in 2007, have come to fruition, it just took a little patience. Included in the highlights; the Docent Training Program, a grant from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore for better visibility and to increase tourism by way of new brochures and rack cards. We have appreciated a substantial increase in membership, and an augmentation of Mansion events which includes; our always popular High Teas, Music at the Mansion, Art Show & Sale, Halloween Ghost Tour, Bridal Showcase, Mardi Gras Dinner Party and everyone's favorite this spring, the Celtic Show. We cannot forget the restoration painting of the small and large dining rooms in our list of accomplishments.

By changing the genre of events we are able to attract all age groups visiting the Mansion so they may see and appreciate all it has to offer as a historically significant house museum.

My personal favorites have been hosting the children who come and tour both with the Girl Scouts of America and the federally funded Service Learning Group from Salisbury Middle School. There is nothing like seeing that look in a child's eye when you make history come alive. There is always the chance of my encouraging a youngster to become another history geek.

Keep watching our website for additions to our calendar and upcoming events...

www.poplarhillmansion.org

Historic Interpretation Tours...

With the summer tourist season upon us please keep in mind the treasure in your own backyard. Why not bring them to the Mansion for a tour? We are open for free tours on the first and third Sundays of the month from 1 – 4 PM. All other times by appointment and a \$3.00 per person fee, just call ahead. We are also happy to arrange group tours as well. Our docents are now wearing appropriate Federal style costumes.

Wants and Needs...

*We are asking for anyone who would like to donate sugar bowl and creamer sets as well as small salt and pepper shakers to please call the Curator. Our Hospitality Committee members are in need of a few more sets due to the increase in events.

*Volunteers are always needed for help in the yard and indoors as well. Please call the Curator if you would like to weed or trim, perhaps polishing brass or silver is your forte? 410-749-1776

*Please register your Food Lion MVP card on line so a percentage of sales are returned to the Mansion. It's easy, it's free. Need help? Call the Curator and she will do it over the phone for you in less than 2 minutes. You still have the benefit of discounted prices and enjoy knowing you are helping Salisbury's oldest documented home.