

# Historic Deerfield



# Member News

Spring/Summer 2017







## Flynt Center Lobby Exhibition Shows “Why We Collect”

Historic Deerfield possesses one of the premier public collections of decorative arts and architecture in America, with a particular focus on the material culture of the Connecticut River Valley. The museum’s new exhibition, *Why We Collect: Recent Acquisitions at Historic Deerfield, 2010–2017*, on view through February 2018, presents more than 20 highlights from the collection that have been acquired in the past seven years. The exhibition also explains how these objects help us to understand everyday life, work, and culture in New England’s past, and why the museum’s staff added them to the collection.

Through the generosity of donors and selective purchases, the museum’s collections

continue to grow and become more comprehensive. Using three thematic categories, this exhibition will showcase a variety of media from furniture and clothing to manuscripts and architectural paneling.



The museum’s primary collecting area is the material culture and decorative arts of Deerfield, Massachusetts, from early settlement to the present. The section “Coming Home to Deerfield” features several significant objects of art, culture, and history made and/or owned on The Street in Old Deerfield, which were supported by the Deerfield Collectors Guild. These acquisitions enhance the museum’s mission of interpreting the craftsmanship, design, technology, and patronage of this great place.

See the exhibit daily from 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Flynt Center of Early New England Life.



Top: Painting, *View from Sugarloaf, Looking South Along the Connecticut River to Holyoke Range*, James Wells Champney, c. 1877, Deerfield, Mass., 2012.29; Dish: Jingdezhen, China, c. 1700, 2012.33; Paint Box: Canton (Guangzhou), China, c. 1850, 2014.20.



**Manuscript  
Discovery!  
Kneeland and  
Adams Hartford  
Cabinetshop  
Records Come  
to Light**

The 270-page ledger kept by Hartford, Connecticut, cabinetmaker Lemuel Adams (1769–1850) has been discovered at the University of Miami by Kevin G. Ferrigno. The Adams ledger provides an unprecedented record of the cabinetmaking business in Hartford during the bustling 1790s. Historic Deerfield Associate Curator Christine Ritok and private researcher Ferrigno are spearheading a long-term study of the interrelationships among Hartford area craftsmen including Adams, his partner Samuel Kneeland,

Aaron Chapin, John Porter, Aaron Colton, John I. Wells, Julius Barnard, Erastus Grant, and Daniel Clay. The Adams ledger opens the window on their world.

The ledger contains, among other features, the daybook—or record of daily transactions—of the prestigious shop of Adams and Samuel Kneeland, who were in partnership in downtown Hartford between 1792 and 1795. The ledger details the establishment of their business, the identities and tenures of their journeymen and apprentices, the full range of their wares, and their output by form, date, price, and customer. Research is underway using the ledger to trace a wide variety of objects now known to have been made in the Kneeland and Adams shop.

“The discovery of the Adams ledger equals any manuscript find related to early American craftsmanship over the last generation,” said Historic Deerfield President Philip Zea. “The museum fully supports Kevin’s and Christine’s research and looks forward to the revelations ahead about craftsmanship and business in the Connecticut Valley after the American Revolution. This is terrific material!”

*Looking glass, labeled by Kneeland & Adams (1792–1795), Hartford, Connecticut. Mahogany, white pine, gilding, glass. Gift of Margaret R. Barbour, 1966.43.0. Courtesy The Connecticut Historical Society.*

## **Patriot’s Day Celebrations Delight Visitors with Revolutionary Fun**

A cold, cloudy day didn’t deter visitors to the 2017 Patriot’s Day Revolutionary Muster on Saturday, April 22, as cannons and muskets fired in commemoration of the “shot heard ‘round the world” and the beginning of the Revolutionary War. More than 300 visitors enjoyed a re-enactment that included an “alarm” by horse and rider, a fife and drum march, and a muster of new “troops.” The day also included a colonial fashion show, a horse-mounted weaponry skills



demonstration, and a variety of encampment activities.



Save the Date: The  
ADA/Historic Deerfield  
Antiques Show Returns  
This Fall—In a NEW  
LOCATION



## 2017 ADA/Historic Deerfield Antiques Show · October 7 (11 a.m.-6 p.m.) and October 8 (11 a.m.-5 p.m.) · Mullins Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst

The annual Antiques Dealers' Association Historic Deerfield Antiques show will return in 2017—but in a new location. Due to the construction of a new field house and hockey rink at Deerfield Academy, the annual Columbus Day weekend show needed to find a new location. Luckily, that location was nearby Amherst, Massachusetts, at the Mullins Center at the University of Massachusetts.

While the event is no longer in the heart of the village in Deerfield, the museum will still co-sponsor the event with the ADA, as the show ticket sales benefit Historic Deerfield.

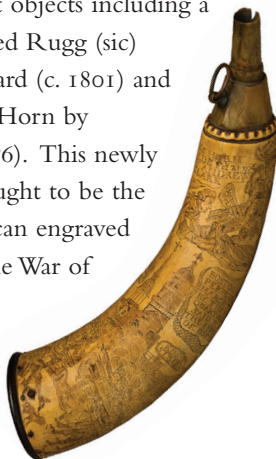
The show is considered by both serious and casual collectors to be one of the year's most important, with remarkable objects from the 17th through the 19th centuries on view and for sale. Remember, Historic Deerfield members get in to the show for free!

## Annual Members Meeting Recap

The Historic Deerfield Annual Meeting, held on Sunday, March 26, 2017 at the Deerfield Community Center, was attended by 53 members, some of whom have supported “The Street” for over 20 years, as well as many new Friends.

President Philip Zea highlighted over 20 historically significant objects including a rare New England Bed Rugg (sic) made by Esther Packard (c. 1801) and an engraved Powder Horn by Andrew Clark (c. 1776). This newly acquired piece is thought to be the finest existing American engraved powder horn from the War of Independence.

Powder Horn, by  
Andrew Clark, c. 1776,  
2017.13.



## Grants and Sponsorships Received

- ★ **\$34,200**—Massachusetts Cultural Council operating funds.
- ★ **\$25,000**—Shumway Foundation for operation of the Deerfield Summer Fellowship Program.
- ★ **\$7,500**—Dorr Foundation for field trip school bus subsidies for Springfield, MA schools.
- ★ **\$6,000**—Highland Street Foundation for Free Fun Friday (free admission day)
- ★ **\$2,000**—Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for UV-resistant interior windows for the Wells-Thorn House.



# Historic Deerfield Members Head to SAN FRANCISCO

September 21-25, 2017

San Francisco  
Painted Ladies



Join Historic Deerfield to explore San Francisco's historic homes, private collections, world-class museums, and the Bay Area's tantalizing cuisine. This year's members trip includes tours of five remarkable private collections, plus private tours of seven exceptional museums, and historic homes, the Muir Woods National Monument old growth redwood forest, and tops off the experience with an evening sail across San Francisco Bay on a coastal schooner with views of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Don't miss our West Coast fun-filled history tour! Contact us at (413) 775-7176 or [jschofield@historic-deerfield.org](mailto:jschofield@historic-deerfield.org) to sign up.

San Francisco Bay  
Schooner Sail



## Get the Buzz on Bees at the History Workshop This Summer

From July 1 through August 13, visit the History Workshop to learn the sweet story of honey bees. From pollination to producing wax and honey, bees have been important in Deerfield from colonial times right up to the present. Currently, there are many concerns about honey bees and we want to provide up-to-date information on honey bee decline and its possible causes. Our bee related activities will be fun for everyone. Join us for wax candle making, honey tasting, creating a honey bee art project, and planting pollinator friendly flower seeds.



## Paula and Gregory Gimblette, In Their Own Words

“It seems like yesterday that we were a young married couple starting out on this great antique quest that has become our life-long passion. In 1973, we bought our first little house—we had an empty house and an empty wallet to go with it—but we had a strong desire to fill it with objects that we loved and appreciated.

Though we were exposed to antiques as children we realized that we would need more education and experiences to be successful in building our collection. We actively compiled our reference library, visiting the furniture wing of museums, and attending antique shows.

At an antique show we met a dealer who told us about Historic Deerfield. So, on a sunny Sunday in the summer of 1973, we gassed up the car and headed to the place we had heard so much about. Historic Deerfield was love at first sight and it quickly became our second home. Since that first visit we have been card carrying members for more than forty years. We have found HD to be a treasure trove of collections, demonstrations, lectures, and experiences based on an 18th c. village and its people.

The museum houses and the wonderful collections amassed in them are outstanding examples of 18th c. life, but we believe your true treasures are your well-versed guides. Over the years the sweet-natured and very knowledgeable guides have won our hearts and respect, and have given us a fountain of knowledge to build upon.

Historic Deerfield has made an enormous impression on us and influenced our decision to buy our second



house, a historic 1750 Saltbox, rich in Stockbridge, MA, history and ties to Historic Deerfield. We have had many fun outings filling it with 18th c. furniture, ceramics, and textiles. One story comes to mind—at one of our first auctions we went out on a limb and found the audience applauding our winning bid on a poster bed. We looked at each other and shared the same thought—how are we ever going to pay for this? That year we held the record for the most hot dogs consumed by one couple!

Each time we visit Historic Deerfield we learn something new. That is one of the many reasons why we visit Historic Deerfield at least twelve times a year! 12 times 40+ years must equal a record number of visits! A perfect day for us is to visit the Flynt Center, or a few museum houses, browse at the Book Store, and end the day by ordering a delicious dinner at the Deerfield Inn. Life is good . . . on The Street. May you continue to grow and inspire the next generation.

Best wishes,  
Paula and Gregory Gimblette



# Roger Wyman Makes a Legacy Gift

“I have included Historic Deerfield in my estate plans to endow the position of Public Historian and Academic Programs for Historic Deerfield because of the museum’s exceptional educational programs, particularly for young people. Its commitment to preserving our heritage through individual examples of early American handicraft parallels my own interest in stewardship of the past. The museum displays 85% of its collection for visitors to see—a rare instance among museums—and the quality of the collection is superb.”



“I encourage others to follow my example and include Historic Deerfield in your estate plans. It is an investment in our future.”  
Roger Wyman, 2017

Roger Wyman, now retired from a career involving intergenerational work with the elderly and other charitable work, has been a supporter of Historic Deerfield for nearly 20 years. He believes the past is the foundation upon which we build our lives and find meaning in our present and future.



Historic Deerfield's Public Historian, Barbara Mathews, manages the Summer Fellowship Program, coordinates museum programming for area academic institutions, teaches Smith College's material culture course, and works on a number of research projects.

## Create Your Own Lasting Legacy by Putting Historic Deerfield in Your Will

Contact David Barclay, Director of Development, to discuss your options. (413) 775-7177 or email [leadershipgift@historic-deerfield.org](mailto:leadershipgift@historic-deerfield.org)





## Give the Gift of Old New England!

What better gift for friends and family than a membership to Historic Deerfield? Membership provides free entry to the Museum and Museum Houses for a full year, plus a 10% discount at the gift shop, Deerfield Inn, and Champney's Restaurant and Tavern. Offer your friends and family world-class decorative arts, antiques, and early New England history—all while supporting the preservation of this cultural gem!

Contact us at (413) 775-7176 or [membership@historic-deerfield.org](mailto:membership@historic-deerfield.org) to give a gift of membership.



413-775-7214 | [info@historic-deerfield.org](mailto:info@historic-deerfield.org)



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## MEMBER BENEFITS

Highlights:

- \* Free unlimited admission
- \* Discounts at the Museum Gift Shop & Bookstore, the Deerfield Inn, and on trips, classes, and workshops
- \* Guest passes

And much more!

To learn more about these and other great benefits of being a member, call or email the Membership Department (413) 775-7176, [membership@historic-deerfield.org](mailto:membership@historic-deerfield.org) today!

