

Historic Deerfield



Member News

Spring/Summer 2019



NEW EXHIBITION

Inspired Design: Asian Decorative Arts and Their Adaptations

Lobby, Flynt Center of
Early New England Life
Now on view through
February 9, 2020

By the 17th century, English and European merchants purchased and traded quantities of luxury goods such as lacquerwares, porcelains, and textiles from cultures centered in Southeast Asia. Emerging New England elites also acquired these tangible examples of global sophistication and economic success to decorate their homes and adorn their bodies. These imports proved so popular that they could hardly satisfy the growing desire for new textiles, clothing forms, furniture, ceramics, and other decorative arts. To meet this increasing demand, enterprising English, European, and American manufacturers competed with



these global imports by producing more affordable versions of Asian design and decorative elements.

Inspired Design: Asian Decorative Arts and Their Adaptations highlights 18th- and 19th-century Asian decorative arts and their imitations, drawn from the museum's rich collection. The exhibition explores how Western craftsmen adapted Asian decorative arts into a design vocabulary more familiar to them and their customers, and highlights New Englanders' own quest for these imported goods.

AT THE HISTORY WORKSHOP

The Art of Stenciling

April 14–May 26

Historic Deerfield's
History Workshop, an
interactive space for
hands-on learning of

colonial history, will
showcase the art of
stenciling this
spring. Stenciling
is an early form of interior
decorating that is
still popular today.

Come to the History
Workshop to learn
about this wonderful
art form and find out



about the early New England itinerant artists who traveled from home to home decorating walls. Join us for some wall stenciling and make a beautiful stenciled artwork to take with you. Fun for all ages.





Save the Date! October 16-20, 2019

Join the Friends of Historic Deerfield as we travel to “Music City”—Nashville, Tennessee! Explore the architecture,

museums, live music, fine dining and private homes of this historic city with Phil and Betsy Zea. Enjoy in-depth sightseeing and access to exclusive private collections when you experience Nashville with

Historic Deerfield. For information, call (413) 775-7176 or visit www.historic-deerfield.org/events/trip.



MEMBER NEWS RECIPE

Pounded Cheese

(Homemade Cheese Spread)

This is a great recipe for a quick and tasty cheese to spread on crackers or toast points. It comes from an early 19th-century cookbook, *The Cook's Oracle*. The recipe is a favorite in our Open Hearth Cooking program. Many people are surprised to find curry powder and cayenne pepper in the recipe because of the common myth that cooks used spices in the past to cover up the taste of food that had “gone by.” In reality, like today, people like a little flavor and spice in their food. We encourage you to try this tasty recipe from the past!

Modern Adaptation

Ingredients:

- 2 cups room temperature grated cheddar cheese
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 2 teaspoons mustard
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper

- 1 teaspoon curry powder
- 1 tablespoon sherry



Mix all ingredients together in a food processor or mixer. Mix it until you get a spreadable

consistency. Taste the spread and correct the seasoning. For a good workout and a more “historical” experience, combine all ingredients in a sturdy bowl, and then pound the cheese with a mortar until smooth. Serve with crackers or toast points.

Do you have a family recipe to share? Email it to membership@historic-deerfield.org. We'd love to feature it in *Member News*.

Become a Member of the Deerfield Collectors Guild!

Historic Deerfield recently acquired an important piece at auction—a very early, punch-decorated, pine box, inscribed “RD,” Deerfield, 1690-1710.

The “RD” box is a rare piece of furniture made in Deerfield within memory of English settlement. It was arguably owned in one of the houses at the southern end of The Street that survived the burning of town during the 1704 raid. As such, the box defines the furnishings available on the edge of empire during the first years of the English town.

We could not have acquired this important piece without the help of the Deerfield



Collectors Guild, which exists to support Historic Deerfield’s acquisition of significant objects of art, culture, and history made or owned in Old Deerfield from the 17th to the early 20th century. Your \$500 annual membership to the Guild helps the Museum secure important Deerfield objects, like the “RD” box, that might otherwise escape preservation.

Join today. Call (413) 775-7178, or email collectorsguild@historic-deerfield.org.

Save the Date!

Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. • Patriot’s Day Revolutionary Muster 2019 • Celebrate Patriot’s Day at Historic Deerfield! Travel back in time and rediscover the history behind the Patriot’s Day holiday and the “shot heard round the world.” Revolutionary times will come to life through lively re-enactments including cannon-firing and musket drills, demonstrations of period crafts and activities, fife and drum music, and a muster.

Sunday, April 28, 2:30 p.m. • “The Indian World of George Washington” presented by Colin G. Calloway, John Kimball, Jr. 1943 Professor of History and Professor of Native American Studies, Dartmouth College. Location: New Canaan Library, New Canaan, Connecticut. Join us for a special “Deerfield on the Road” event at the New Canaan Library in New Canaan, Connecticut, where Colin G. Calloway will present a lecture based on his book, *The Indian World of George Washington: The First President, the First Americans, and the Birth of a Nation*, a finalist for the nonfiction National Book Award. If you missed Professor Calloway’s fascinating

presentation as part of our Winter Lecture Series, here’s your second chance to hear an important new perspective on our nation’s first President! For more information, visit our website or call (413) 775-7176.

Sunday, August 4, 2 p.m. • Friends of Historic Deerfield Annual Meeting and Members-Only Tour of the Creelman House

Historic Deerfield members are invited to join President Philip Zea for an update on recent program and acquisition highlights, followed by an exclusive tour of the latest addition to the Museum’s collection of historic houses: the Creelman



House, built in the 1760’s and known during the late 19th century as “Elmstead,” when it was then the home of the artist James Wells Champney (1843-1903) and his family. RSVP required by July 29 to jschofield@historic-deerfield.org or (413) 775-7176.



Welcome New and Rejoining Members

We are delighted to welcome 63 New Member Households and welcome back 11 Rejoining Member Households between September 1, 2018 and January 31, 2019

Nicholas Anderson
Mindy Arbo and Dudley Cotton***
Susan and Fred Baron
David Barr
Paul G. Beaudoin
Sheree Brown
John and Gail Butter
Steve and Barbara Call
The Chapleaus
Spencer Conway
Christine Cordrey
Robert Daniello
Gary and Cheryl D'Aquilla
Kathryn Dempsey
Joyce and Martin Dempsey
Hunter Dray
Paul and Margaret Dube
Nancy and Tom Foley
Bridgette Fontane
Margaret Freeman
Steve Gavin and Cassie Spencer ***
Nicole B. Graves
Ms. Nancy Grilli
Thomas Griswold and Mary E. Kelly-Griswold
Shervin and Carolyn Hawley
Patricia Ryan and Hilchey
Leslie Hindman***
Robert E. Hoogs
Hubbard Memorial Library
Gordon Hugenberger
Paul Jablon and Kim Wolcott
Jean Jinks
Carolyn A. Kagan
James Kirby
R. Henry Kleeman and Joan Boughton***
Leslie and Bruce Laurie

Katrina Lis
Lucinda Lucey
Susan Lynton
Alaster MacDonald*
Manchester Public Library
Kara Manton
Wilhelmina Margalis
William C. and Susan S. Mariner
Amy Mathison-Star
Elodie McBride
Mr. and Mrs. Marcus A. McCorison II
Andrew and Su-Ellyn McMaster
Nancy McNamara and Micheline Mann
Ronald Millette
Orlando Family
Charles Parham
Megan Perry & Phil and Hazel St. Pierre
Jeanne Pelletier
Eli Porth
Carol Reed
Karen Rodzenko
Judith Root*
Robert and Melanie Roper
Nathan Schmidt
Lois Scozzari
Jennifer Shea
Katherine T. Small
Curtis and Andrea Smith
Joseph and Jane Stevens*
Robert Strauss and Steven Stout
Chrysler Szarlan
L. Emerson and Joanne H. Tuttle**
Andre Vadnais
William C. Vance
Howard Wagner and Sheryl Stone
Margaret T. Welch
Kendall S. Williams*
Donna and Peter Worthen*

*Deerfield Descendant

**Collectors Guild

***Asher Benjamin Society



Deerfield, and sign up to volunteer at these events so they can spend time together and enjoy the lectures. They also enjoy spending summer afternoons here, after volunteering or just visiting as members. They have their lunch

Two Generations of Historic Deerfield Membership

When asked when she first came to know about Historic Deerfield, Gertude (Trudy) Ralph answers, “Always! It’s in my blood!” Trudy’s mother was born in 1913 in Deerfield and always had strong and deep connections here, attending the White Church (now the Deerfield Community Center) and volunteering for PVMA and Historic Deerfield. Trudy herself became a member of Historic Deerfield in 1988 and began volunteering when Historic Deerfield launched the Ambassadors (Volunteer) Program five years ago.

Alicia Ralph, who is Trudy’s niece, first visited Deerfield as a child with her aunt. Collectively and individually, Deerfield has been a community center to both women.

“It’s such a special place—the kind of place that just doesn’t exist anywhere else,” says Trudy. She comes as often as she can and particularly loves visiting throughout the different seasons.

“I love all the pumpkins and chrysanthemums in the fall and the handmade wreaths at Christmas time,” Trudy said. Trudy and Alicia volunteer at the close of the autumn season and hand out cookies and cider at holiday events. Trudy also makes a point to bring family and friends to Deerfield.

Deerfield is also Trudy and Alicia’s favorite place to meet up. The pair have been very close since Alicia was a child. They love the free lecture series offered in both the summer and winter by Historic

(from the Historic Deerfield food truck, The Lunch Box, of course, which Trudy says has the best hamburgers and Alicia says has the best sauerkraut!) at the picnic tables and enjoy each other’s company and the beauty of Deerfield.

Both women love Deerfield as a whole and the ambiance of the village. Trudy calls it, “a feel good place.” Alicia has a particular fondness for the textile collection and loves any programs or lectures that textile curator Ned Lazaro gives. She is also partial to Hadley chests, but adds, “I love the whole Street.”

When asked what they describe as the best reason for becoming members of Historic Deerfield, Alicia talks about the variety of activities and volunteer opportunities. “There are so many opportunities for people to get involved in different things, whether researching and archiving, sewing, or greeting people at events,” Alicia says. Trudy points to being able to come when she wants and concentrate on one house or one aspect of Historic Deerfield without having to rush through and see it all in a day. “As a member you don’t have to do it all at once, you can take your time,” Trudy says.

Finally, the women talk about how many friends they have made through their membership and volunteerism at Historic Deerfield. Trudy even met her dear, late companion, Bob Plaisted, at Historic Deerfield. These two women have great love for each other, for Historic Deerfield, and for the community of friends they have met here as members and volunteers.

GET TO KNOW THE STAFF

Heather Harrington

Heather Harrington is the Associate Librarian at the Memorial Libraries. She has been working at Historic Deerfield for eleven years. When asked about what she loves most about Historic Deerfield, Heather says it is its commitment to preserving the history of the town of Deerfield. As she explains, the history of many small towns are not widely known, except perhaps by a small number of residents, but the history of Deerfield is well-documented because of the work of Historic Deerfield.

Heather enjoys working with the public to answer their genealogical questions and to help them find the ancestral information they seek. She meets many people in her role and finds it so gratifying to see their genuine happiness when she is able to tell them where their ancestor lived, what their occupation was, or show them a sample of their ancestor's handwriting.

The Memorial Libraries are special in that there are two separate and unique libraries in one building. The Historic Deerfield Library has an excellent collection of books relating to local history, decorative



arts, and resources such as microfilm and databases that are not available at a local public library. The Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA) Library has a vast collection of family

papers and documents relating to Deerfield residents. The two collections together provide a rich combination of resources.

The experience that Heather most often recommends to visitors and members is one of the walking tours. Whether the theme is the Old Burying Ground, the Pocumtuck Native Homeland, the Deerfield English Settlement, or the 1704 Deerfield Raid, each provides insight into the history of the town and allows visitors to experience Deerfield at their own pace and through the lens of one particular theme.

When Heather is not working, she loves to read and to research her own family genealogy. She has discovered a distant connection to Deerfield as she is descended from Hannah Beamon's brother-in-law. As we are fond of saying, "all roads lead to Deerfield!"



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nothing today!**

Have you considered including Historic Deerfield in your will?

To make your bequest to Historic Deerfield please use the following language: "To Historic Deerfield, Inc. in Deerfield, MA, I give _____% of my estate," or you may name a fixed dollar amount. For more information about including Historic Deerfield in your will please contact us at (413) 775-7177 or email leadershipgift@historic-deerfield.org.



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For more information about Membership visit historic-deerfield.org or contact Jessica Schofield, Development Coordinator, at membership@historic-deerfield.org or (413) 775-7176.

Exclusive Member Benefits

- ✱ Free unlimited admission & guest passes
- ✱ Publications such as our *Historic Deerfield* magazine
- ✱ Invitations to exhibition previews and other members' only events
- ✱ Discounts at the Museum Gift Shop and Bookstore, Champney's Restaurant and Tavern, the Deerfield Inn, and on member trips, workshops and other events