

Fall
2007

Volume 10
Issue 1

Hampton Highlights



A Word From the President

I trust everyone enjoyed their summer. I thank Hampton's staff and many volunteers for their hard work and preparation for the reopening of both the Mansion and the Museum Shop on Nov. 30. Rather than risk forgetting anyone, I want to personally thank everyone for their tireless efforts on behalf of Hampton National Historic Site (HNHS). For me personally, the year has flown by, and I am excited by the opportunities that are now unfolding for our organization. I trust your support will continue in the coming year, and I hope to see many of you at the annual meeting on Oct. 15 in the Farmhouse, and around Hampton at one of the many exciting events that are in store. Sincerely, Robert S. Brown, President

T. Rowe Price Grant for the Drawing Room

Historic Hampton, Inc. is very pleased to announce that the T. Rowe Price Associates Foundation has awarded a grant of \$20,000 toward the project to reinstall the Drawing Room at Hampton Mansion. The gift is specifically directed to underwrite the creation and installation of window treatments. The four elaborate window treatments of correct 1840s period design will each be comprised of layered valances, side curtains, embroidered sheer curtains, and decorative trimmings.

The support of the T. Rowe Price Associates Foundation for this project is particularly appropriate given the connection between the Price family and Hampton National Historic Site during its formative years. In 1954, Mrs. T. Rowe Price was asked to organize a Women's Committee for Hampton. As the Committee's first president, she was instrumental in raising support and awareness for the Man-

sion. Since then, the Hampton Women's Committee has continued to be involved with assisting furnishing projects in the Mansion's period rooms. The Foundation's timely support is a fitting way to memorialize Mrs. Price and her important role at Hampton.

The window treatments are just one element in the historically accurate reinstatement of Hampton's mid-19th century Drawing Room, the Mansion's most formal, ornate, and dramatic room. Accomplishments of this long-term project include conservation of gilded pier mirrors, consoles, and window cornices; conservation of 17 pieces of furniture; satinwood faux-graining of woodwork; reproduction of the original crimson silk damask

for upholstery and curtain fabric; reproduction of curtain and upholstery trims; re-upholstery of two suites of seating furniture; reproduction of the 1830s French floral wallpaper and border; reproduction of embroidered sheer window curtains; and completion of preliminary phases for reproducing the original 1850 "tapestry velvet" carpet in England.

The project is nearing completion, and it is anticipated that most of the essential elements needed for the room to be accurately returned to its original splendor will be ready at the time of the Mansion's reopening on November 30.

Funding for this important work has come from generous grants from the Middendorf Foundation, France-Merrick Foundation, Horatio G. Ebert Foundation, and the Dorothy Wagner Wallis Charitable Trust, in addition to conservation funds from the National Park Service.

A preliminary design or "paint-up" for the reproduction of the Hampton Drawing Room wallpaper, made by Carter and Company/Mt. Diablo Handprints of Vallejo, California.



Photos are courtesy of the
National Park Service.
To view in color, go to:
www.historichampton.org

Historic Structure Report Underway

With the Mansion closed for the installation of heating, cooling and fire suppression systems, it was an ideal time to peek into the holes and create a Historic Structure Report to learn more about the house's construction and modifications over time.

After receiving advice from Hampton's former curator Lynne Dakin Hastings and Orlando Ridout, V, of Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), HHI engaged the services of Mark Wenger, a highly regarded architectural historian based out of Williamsburg, VA, who specializes in 18th C. Chesapeake houses, to perform the analysis.

Mr. Wenger and his assistant Eric Gradoia started their re-

search last winter. We've received a preliminary draft and we look forward to a final report soon.

HHI received a generous grant from Preservation Maryland (PM) to cover most of the expenses for this project and submitted a grant application to MHT to fund the balance, which did not come through due to timing issues. HHI is seeking additional funding and would welcome contributions from our members for this significant undertaking.

Photos: Mark Wenger leads a tour explaining his findings for Tyler Gearhart and Josh Phillips of PM, and Marilyn Warshawsky of HHI.



Hampton Mourns the Loss of Two Dedicated Women

March 27, 2007, saw the passing of Rosalie Oster (Mrs. R. Wilson). In 1973, Mrs. Oster, was a member of the Orangerie Restoration Committee. She met Mr. Eli Lilly of pharmaceutical fame in Shakertown, KY, and told him about the restoration. She asked for his help in honor of his mother, Lilly Marie Ridgely Lilly. In subsequent correspondence with Mr. Lilly, Mrs. Oster updated him on the project and provided him with a family tree that showed the connection between his mother and the Ridgelys of Hampton. Mr. Lilly's donation to the Orangerie restoration amounted to \$35,000, and was a tribute to the energy and perseverance of Mrs. Oster.

Mildred Deering (Mrs. L. Patrick) passed on April 16, 2007. She was a valued member of The Women's Committee of HHI, and was chairman of their Lecture Luncheons for 16 years. Throughout the years she also served HHI as a buyer for the Gift Shop, as an assistant to the editor of the *Views From The Cupola* newsletter, as a committee member for nine Colonial Farm Days, and twice was in charge of the Patron List for the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage. She helped with the archives and photographs for 50 years of events with the Women's Committee, and she especially enjoyed helping with their 50th Anniversary book published in 2003. Both of these women will be greatly missed.

Meet Ranger Vince: Chief Ranger & Hampton Cheerleader



Vincent Vaise is a life-long resident of Linthicum, MD. While in high school he developed a strong interest in local history. He became a volunteer with the NPS as a member of the Fort McHenry Guard in 1988. He was hired as a seasonal ranger there in the summer of 1990. Vince then attended UMBC majoring in History and Linguistics, and spent a semester in Germany.

After graduating in 1993, Vince worked various jobs, including a short stint in the Baltimore Police Dept., before being hired as a permanent Park Ranger at Fort McHenry in 1994. His duties included historic research, guided walks and talks, organizing the volunteer pro-

grams, public relations, and coordination of the park's primary living history unit - The Fort McHenry Guard. In addition, he has published articles in *The Journal of the War of 1812* and *Civil War News*.

Appointed Chief of Interpretation for the Fort in 2005, Vince coordinates daily operations for the Ranger staff and is currently working on exhibits for the new Visitor Center. In the fall of 2006 he was made Acting Chief of Interpretation for HNHS. It is in this capacity that he, along with Rangers Kirby Shedlowski, Bill Curtis, and Alan Gephardt, arranges special programming, visits rotary clubs, is in the process of producing a traveling trunk show that will visit schools, and serves as one of Hampton's goodwill ambassadors on TV news spots through the coordination of HHI board member and public relations executive Gayle Economos. Vince wishes to thank HHI and the NPS for helping to make programming and events at HNHS so successful.

Upcoming Events

Sep. 28 – “Ball in the Great Hall” - 7 pm.
Party in the Mansion before the collections are reinstalled!
Call HHI for tickets.

Oct. 21 – 1st Annual Harvest Day at Hampton Farm - 12 to 4 pm.
Join us for music, carriage rides, animal demonstrations, corn shucking & more.

Nov. 2— The Squire's Dinner, 7 pm, hosted by the Women's Committee, highlighting the War of 1812 era. Lively music, interpretive entertainment, and exceptional food and drink are not to be missed.
Call HHI for tickets.

Nov. 30—time TBA (check website)
The day we've all be waiting for: Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the grand reopening of Hampton Mansion.

For details on all events

visit our website:

www.historichampton.org

or call the HHI office:

410-828-9480



News Briefs:

* Hampton owes a great deal of appreciation to long-time volunteers *Harriet Flotte* and *Hazel Sperry*. The scope of their work included many hours dedicated to the Gift Shop, Garden Clubs, Tours, and Board of Directors. We thank them wholeheartedly for their years of service and wish them well in retirement. In their absence, we are looking to revitalize the volunteer corps to help with the Shop, along with the maintenance crew, and docent staff. If you or some of your friends are interested in helping in this exciting time at Hampton, please contact Ranger Kirby at 410-823-1309, ext. 228.

* In conjunction with the reopening of the Mansion and the store in the west hyphen, the Executive Board has agreed to pursue a more interpretive direction in its retail operations. To reflect this goal, it was agreed upon to change the name from the Gift Shop to the *Museum Shop of Historic Hampton*. Already in stock is new and exciting inventory in time for the holidays. HHI members get a 10% discount.

* There is still a chance to get in on the trip to Lee Hall in Middleburg, VA, on Thursday, Oct. 11, which is sponsored by the Goucher College Alumnae/i Tour Committee. Call Kathy at 410-337-6183.

* *Preservation Maryland* has recently approved a grant of \$30,000 to HHI toward refurbishing and reopening to the public the Ice House on the Great Lawn. We thank PM wholeheartedly for their years of friendship and support to HNHS.

Garden Updates:

* MD Dept of Nat'l Resources is compiling info on MD State Champion Trees for the Nat'l Register. Focusing on native and naturalized species, a team visited Hampton and updated measurements on the Austrian Black Pine located to the east of the park entrance. At 114' in circumference, 55' tall and with a crown spread of 46', it retains its title as the largest of its species in the State.

* Park Staff are preparing for the Cemetery Woods Stabilization Project. The crew will be removing accumulated deadwood, brush and debris from the wooded area near the 1910 Garage and Cemetery. A mature, dead Tulip Poplar will be removed and a replacement tree donated by the Daughters of the American Revolution will be planted. No live plants will be removed.

* Other work is scheduled to improve the condition of many trees throughout the park. Unfortunately, because of storm damage, the Park's Champion Pecan tree will be removed due to instability. A portion of the wood will be turned into decorative pieces by woodturner Ron Brown and will be offered for sale in the Museum Shop.

* 100' of evergreen hedge is being planted east of the Cutting Garden on the Great Terrace to restore this missing landscape feature, as part of the Rehabilitation of the Formal Gardens.

* Restoration of the landscape around the perimeter of the Mansion will be completed when the scaffolding is removed. The wisterias on the south façade are being retrained as shrubs to replicate their historic appearance. Other landscape improvements will be completed in preparation for the Mansion reopening on Nov. 30.

* Red cedar planted as an allée on the Great Terrace overlooking the parterres are being propagated at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston. They will be grown and used as potential replacements for existing trees.

* Archeological study of the Herb Garden brickwork has been contracted to see if the footing for the garden is part of the historic Octagonal Building foundation. This research is necessary before the Glen Arm Garden Club can complete restoration of the garden.



Upcoming Events

Save The Date:

April 5, 2008—Masquerade Ball. This formal event will be the grandest yet, and is not to be missed! Details forthcoming...

Spring 2008— date TBA. Bus tour of Hampton, Mt. Clare and Homewood in honor of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Andrea Palladio.

Second Sundays:

Free Public Programs—call 410-828-0157 the day of the event to confirm the time and location.

Oct. 14 — Gothic Day

Nov. 11 — Fresh From The Harvest, But Not For Long

Dec. 8 & 9—Holidays at the Hampton Estate

Jan. 13—Winter Merriment

Feb. 10—African American Leaders

April 13—Quoth the Raven

For details on all events visit our website:
www.historichampton.org
Or call the HHI office:
 410-828-9480

Hampton Highlights

Since 1979, Historic Hampton, Inc., a non-profit, cooperative organization, has assisted the National Park Service in generating community awareness and helped in expanding and enhancing the historical, education and interpretive activities at Hampton National Historic Site. If you are already a member, we thank you for your support. If not, we hope that you considering joining so that we may continue our efforts.

Become a Member of Historic Hampton, Inc.

Benefits include:

Hampton Highlights Newsletter

Invitations to special lectures, tours and events

Discounts in the Gift Shop

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Please remit this form with check payable to: **HHI**

535 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286

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