300 YEARS OF HISTORY!

By JAMES SMITH

As you may remember, 2016 was a very busy year for the Warner House as we celebrated the 300th anniversary of the house, which had begun construction in 1716. Committee members were Robert Barth, Pat Caron, Robert Chase, Ronan Donohoe, Barbara Englebach, Elizabeth Farish, Deb Richards, Louise Richardson, Sandra Rux, Carol Seely, James Smith (chair), and Melissa Walker. We extend a very special thank you to Susan Kress Hamilton of Phineas Graphics for designing the logo for the 300th celebration and the exhibit brochures.

The celebration began in February 2016 at the 12th annual "Life and Death in the Piscataqua region" where Jeff Hopper and Sandra Rux presented the talk "Revealing the Warner House." They discussed new discoveries about the house 300 years in the making. On May 17, the Warner House was again featured in the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society lecture series. Martha Pinello, Louise Richardson and Sandra Rux led a discussion on the "Evolution of Museum Interpretation of the Warner House" at Strawberry Banke Museum.

The Warner House had two exhibits for the season. In the house, there was an impressive exhibit of "Three Centuries of Dining at the Warner House" curated by Sandra Rux, Judy Groppa, Jeff Hopper and others. This exhibit really made the house come alive with the dining vignettes throughout the house highlighting the families occupying the house over the years. Perhaps fitting that the second exhibit took place at Discover Portsmouth, which was just across from Jonathan Warner's childhood home, the Buckminster House on Islington Street. There, Robert Chase and Richard Candee curated the "Warner House at 300!" exhibit featuring the art and artifacts from the house and the art inspired by the house. This included a spectacular ceramic case curated by the Robert Barth, Hollis Broderick, and Louise Richardson with ceramics.

Joyce Volk (1927-2016)

By RICHARD CANDEE


Born in San Francisco, she came east to attend Sarah Lawrence and was working in advertising in New York City when she married in 1954. The couple had two children, Christopher and Cynthia, and resided in Manhattan and later in Pawling, New York. In 1968 she began graduate studies at NYU's Institute of Fine Arts, where she earned her MA in 1973 and ultimately all but a dissertation toward a doctorate.

For the next 20 years she became a lecturer for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum and the...
Guggenheim Museum. She and her husband Ken moved to Portsmouth in 1992 for a 'working retirement.' While I chaired the Board of Governors in 1994 I named Richard T. Murphy from the Winterthur Program as a summer research fellow. He developed a new, historically accurate furnishing plan and interpretation for each room using parts of the existing collection, documentary sources, and family genealogy that Tack Swan had been collecting. His report was finally done in February of 1995 and I immediately asked Joyce to become Curator and placed his report in her hands to execute.

This involved moving most furniture and decorative arts from one room to another, stockpiling or selling off unwanted antiques that had no particular history with the house, and filling in the missing parts of several stages of the home's occupation. Joyce was especially good sequestering the profits from deaccessioned collections to pay for the recreations needed to match each room to a particular period. She also had a knack for finding Warner heirs who would happily return wanted family furnishing to the house.

Together with Deb Child we spent the next few years discovering all kinds of new things about the house! When I took a sabbatical at the Smithsonian in 1998 I knew the house and its collections were in fine hands. But we continued to share new discoveries about the house - smalt paint, hidden architectural clues, new furniture discoveries, etc. Many of these discoveries were published by her in various collectors' magazines and newspapers.

Then one day after I mentioned something she didn't know, Joyce said "We need to put all this gathered knowledge in a book before one of us gets run over!"

Thus was conceived her masterwork *The Warner House, A Rich And Colorful History* (2006), written with a baker's dozen of folks she had worked with for a decade. It was published the same year Warner House was the subject of an exhibit of its many "Treasures at the Athenaeum" where so much of our research was done. Her book remains the finest historic house publication I know and a real tribute to Joyce's managerial, curatorial and editorial talents.

To me, no one since Edith Wendell saved the old place in the 1930s has had a greater impact on the preservation and presentation of the Warner House.
2017 Warner House Calendar of Events

In 2017, the Warner House continues to celebrates 300 years from when construction on the brick mansion house began in 1716.

EXHIBITS

DINING AT THE WARNER HOUSE
A season-long exhibit featuring the dining habits of the Warner House occupants (1716-1929) with vignettes in furnished rooms. Free with admission.

SPECIAL TOUR

ARCHITECTURAL SECRETS TOUR
Mondays, 10 a.m.
This behind-the-scenes focus tour explores the architectural evolution of the c.1716 house from first period features to later-18th and 19th century alterations and 20th-century restoration. $15 per person. Please call ahead to reserve your spot at (603) 436-5909.

EVENTS

JUNE 1, 2017
Opening Day!
Opened to the public in 1932 as a house museum, the c.1716 Warner House celebrates over 300 years in the 2017 season. Daily tours are from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Open Wednesday - Monday, closed Tuesdays.

JUNE 8, 2017
Warner House Above and Below Ground Ceramics Used in Dining, 5:30 p.m.
Join Archaeologist Martha Pinello as she discusses the artifacts found in Warner House dig sites and how those findings relate to the house’s occupants. Free event. Suggested donation.

JUNE 10, 2017
Costumed Tea with the Royal Scottish Country Dance, 12 - 3 p.m.
The Costumed Tea is in conjunction with Market Square Day and tours of the downstairs will be available. Free event. Suggested donation.

JUNE 23, 2017
Members’ Party, 5 - 7 p.m.
Celebrate the completion of the LCHIP project. Kerry Vautrot, Buildings and Grounds chair, will give tours of the finished projects and discuss what lies ahead for the Warner House in its next 300 years.

JULY 13, 2017
Silks at the Warner House, 5:30 p.m.
Join Warner House curator Sandra Rux as she discusses the silk textiles of the Warner family. Free event. Suggested donation.

AUGUST 11, 2017
Twilight Tour, 4:30 - 8 p.m.
Visit the Warner House and other historic houses as dusk approaches. Sponsored by the Portsmouth Historic House Associates (PHHA), click here for more information.
Advance tickets: $18 adults, $8 children (ages 12 and under)
Day-of-tickets: $20 adults, $10 children (ages 12 and under)
Tickets are good for admission to all nine houses. Advance tickets are available online through Strawbery Banke Museum.

AUGUST 24, 2017
New Acquisitions and Some Old Stories, 5:30 p.m.
Join Warner House Curator Sandra Rux and Warner House Director Jeffrey Hopper on recent objects as well as fascinating stories about the collection. Free event. Suggested donation.

OCTOBER 15th, 2017
Closing Day!
Daily tours of the Warner House end today.

AFTER SEASON TOURS

Autumn tours of the Warner House
Visit the Warner House after the official season ends, but before the house is put to bed for the winter. For more information or to schedule a tour (with proper advanced notice), contact the Warner House at 603-436-5909.

DECEMBER 2, 2017
Christmas Past at the Warner House, 12 - 3 p.m.
Celebrate a Warner Holiday and learn about how the family experienced the holiday season. Free event. Suggested donation. More info.
New Acquisitions
By SANDRA L. RUX

Margaret (Peggy) Swan Levine donated this second black doll—a boy dressed either as a militiaman or a liveried servant. Photo: Sandra L. Rux

about 1830 that hung in the parlor of the Warner House until 1930. The portrait has been cut down and is without a frame, but has been rehung in its place in the parlor.

Christine Green Alderman, a descendent of Amiel Weeks Whipple, donated a Chippendale style chair that descended to her from the family of Charles William Whipple. Charles William, son of Amiel Weeks Whipple and Eleanor Sherburne, graduated from West Point in 1868. In 1877 he married Josephine Katherine Jones, granddaughter of Admiral Theodorus Bailey. “Admiral Bailey” is inscribed in two places on the bottom of the chair, so it is likely it came from his house.

Our outreach to family descendants for the 300th Anniversary of building the Warner House has resulted in several objects returning to the Warner House. Margaret (Peggy) Swan Levine donated a second black doll—this one a boy dressed either as a militiaman or a liveried servant. He was last played with by her father Robert Swan in the early 20th century and probably belonged to one of the children of Pearce and Betsy Penhallow. Robert Swan moved from Massachusetts to California in the 1940’s. The doll was delivered by Nathaniel Sherburne Levine, son of Peggy and Howard Levine, and his children. While Nathaniel had been to the house more than once, it was the first visit for his children.

Peggy Swan Levine has also donated a portrait of John Nathaniel Sherburne by Joseph Greenleaf Cole painted about 1830. Photo: Sandra L. Rux.
Christine Green Alderman donated this Chippendale style chair that descended to her from the family of Charles William Whipple.

Photo: Sandra L. Rux.

The last gift for 2016 is the sampler embroidered in 1806 by 8 year-old Mary Macphaedris Warner Conner, great niece of Jonathan Warner, who grew up in the Warner House. In 1820 she married Theodore Harris and lived next door in the old Sherburne house. The sampler descended to her granddaughter Agnes Aubin and then to Agnes's granddaughter Carolyn Goodrham who lives in Hampshire, England, UK. Mrs. Goodrham visited the house with other family members in October 2016 and realized the sampler's original home was here. We knew of this sampler from Agnes Aubin's little book about Mary but did not know what had happened to it. The sampler arrived in December—a wonderful Christmas present for the Warner House. It is of typical Portsmouth construction with the base being a greenish brown linsey-woolsey embroidered with silk threads. It has been sent to Nina Rayer in Portland, Maine for conservation.

ABOVE: Carolyn Goodrham who lives in Hampshire, England, UK visited the house with other family members in October 2016 and realized this sampler's original home was here.

Photo: Sandra L. Rux.

INSET: Mary Macphaedris Warner Conner embroidered the sampler in 1806, then the 8 year-old, great niece of Jonathan Warner, who grew up in the Warner House.

Photo: Warner House Collection.
from their personal collections as well as Strawbery Banke Museum. Thank you to the Portsmouth Historical Society for presenting this exciting show. Special thank yous to Bob Chase and Pat Caron for organizing the opening reception for the Discover Portsmouth exhibit.

The first 300th event was the Reunion & Olde Home Day on June 25 and June 26, which brought family descendants from across town and across the country. We loved getting to know the Californian Sherburne descendants and reconnecting with the New England Penhallow descendants. Thank you to Pat Caron for her special attention to provisions. Pat organized and catered the family reunion lunch, the Discover Portsmouth exhibit meal and the Olde Home Day feast. Bob Chase, James Smith and Carol Seely also contributed greatly to catering the events. Flatbreads provided us with a generous discount for the family reception at Discover Portsmouth. Richard Adams brought the descendants on a cemetery tour to learn more about their ancestors and of the Portsmouth history. Thank you, Dick. Also, thank you to Deb Childs and others for being drivers for the cemetery tour.

On Olde Home Day, we displayed Warner House archaeology, churned ice cream, offered tours of the house, listened to delightful music from the band Penhallow, learned more about lobsters with a real live lobster, ate some of the relatives of that lobster (catered by RK Provisions), played historic games, and signed a graffiti board to replicate the family graffiti carved into the Warner House cupola. Thank you to the following people: Martha Pinello, Kerry Vautrot, Elizabeth Farish, Deb Richards, Ronan Donohoe, Sandra Rux, Corey Blanchard, Jess the Sunday Guide, James Smith, Melissa Walker, Carolyn Marvin, Kirsten Richardson, Carol Seely, Jeff Hopper, Pat Caron and others. We also would like to thank Strawbery Banke Museum for loaning the ice cream maker and the historic games.

On August 6, the Warner House hosted a Celtic Festival honoring the heritage of the first owner of the house, Capt. Archibald Macphedris. Co-chairs for this event were Carol Seely, James Smith and Melissa Walker. We received a $500 grant from NHSCOT New Hampshire Highland Games to help fund our musical line up of bagpipers, singers and dancers. The stage for the performers was on the side lawn. They were the following: John Nolan, Bob and Mary Paul, Murray Academy of Irish Dance, Joe Mone, and Penhallow the band. Richard Lockhart, the president of the Scots Charitable Society of Boston, and his wife were on hand to share some interesting documents relating to Macphedris who joined the Society in 1709. Earth Eagle Brewing created an ale called the "Archie" and gave a discount to everyone who came from the event. RiRa catered the event with fish and chips. Thank you to Scott and Carol Seely for taking photographs and video of the event. Thank you to Scott Seely and Jeff Murdock of Penhallow for setting up the equipment for the performers. In addition to the co-chairs, thank you also to Elizabeth Farish, Pam Robinson, Alan Haesche, Kerry Vautrot, Deb Richards, Ronan Donohoe, Jeff Hopper, Sandra Rux, Erica MacDuff and her husband, and others for contributing to the success of this day. Thank you to St. John's Church for offering up free parking spaces for the staff, and also for offering free passes for the musicians and others on the day of the Celtic Festival. This meant a great deal. This truly was a great day with fabulous entertainment.

The 300th was also celebrated in the press. Richard Candee and the late Joyce G. Volk wrote a beautiful article in Antiques and Fine Art. Richard Candee and Robert Chase also wrote an article in The Art Guide. Warner House was featured by the Portsmouth Herald for the Celtic Festival and for a special J. Dennis Robinson article. Robinson reimagined what Portsmouth would have looked like for Archibald Macphedris and others in 1716. Earth Eagle Brewing's online brewer's blog by Emerson Baker discussed the making of the "Archie" ale. Art New England online wrote an article about the season and the exhibits. Silk Damask blogspot featured Warner House shoes and textiles, and some of these items will be featured in Silk Damask's upcoming book by Kimberly Alexander. Thomas Mickey highlighted the Warner House garden in the "American Gardening with a love for the English garden" blog. That article was also featured in the local newspaper. This spring, the Warner House will be a feature article in New Hampshire Home magazine.

Portsmouth is a historical and cultural gem, and while there are many historic houses and other non profits, we appreciate your continued support for the Warner House and local history.

Congratulations to one of our business members and local gift shop merchants Gravestone Artwear of York, Maine, for the publication of Lasting Impressions. Paulette and Cassandra, the book is fabulous and available to purchase in our gift shop!
Table set with food varieties from four periods over three centuries, part of the continuing exhibition Three Centuries of Dining at the Warner House.

 enclosd is $ __________ for 2017 membership.

 Enclosed is $ __________ for 2017 membership.

Please note: Business memberships start at the Wentworth level.

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HOURS: Open June 1st through Mid-October. Daily except Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.