



The Link

joining the sites along the rivers

Volume 12, No. 3

Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

Fall 2010

www.raritanmillstone.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE NOVEMBER 16TH RMHA MEETING AT BUCCLEUCH MANSION IN NEW BRUNSWICK

In the seventeenth century, when most of America was wilderness, the region we know as New Brunswick was peopled with Indians. In 1681 a group of men known as the John Inians Company bought a tract of land numbering some 10,000 acres from the Indians. This was subsequently divided into 19 lots. It is on what was known as the third lot that Buccleuch Mansion stands and has stood since 1739.

It was in that year that Anthony White built the house which, with its surrounding lawns and fields, became known as the White House Farm. Here he brought his bride, Elizabeth, daughter of Governor Lewis Morris, to live. Their son, Anthony Walton White, was a gallant patriot who gave his fortune for the Colonial cause. In 1775 he was made Washington's aide-de-camp, and he was later appointed as Colonel Commandant of the 1st Regiment of the Continental Army.

In 1774 the house was sold to an English Army officer, General William Burton. He, too, brought his bride, Isabella Auchmuty, to live at White House Farm. The Commissioners of Forfeited Estates assumed ownership from General Burton in 1776 and rented the estate to a loyal Colonialist, Captain George Janeway, for a short time, just before the British occupied New Brunswick from December 1, 1776, and where they remained until June 22, 1777. It was during this time that the famed Enniskillen Guards were quartered on the third floor. Saber cuts and musket marks, still clearly visible, scar the floorboards of the house. We do not know who lived in the house from June of 1777 until 1783.

In 1783 it was bought by John Berger, who immediately sold it to Colonel Charles Stewart, the Commissary General of Washington's Revolutionary Forces. During this period, White House Farm was visited by General George Washington, who was said to have loved its beautiful setting second only to his farm, Mount Vernon. General Gates, General Kosciusko, John Hancock, and Alexander Hamilton were some of the notable men who visited as guests of Colonel Stewart.

John Garnett purchased the house in 1798 and died there in 1820. Garnett was a mathematician and edited the "American Nautical Almanac" and "Clark's Seamans; Concise Practical Rules" among other things. His obituary said, "His home was the resort of science, intelligence, and letters."

In 1821, the house and part of the land was bought from Garnett's estate by Colonel Joseph Warren Scott, son of Doctor Moses Scott, Surgeon-General of the Continental Armies. It is at the time that the White House Farm became known as "Buccleuch." Colonel Scott chose the name to honor the family and estates of his Scotch ancestor, Duke of Buccleuch. This name is correctly pronounced "buck-clue."

Colonel Scott had three sons and three daughters. A son, Charles Smith Scott, and a daughter, Lavinia, who became Mrs. Richard Varick Dey, made Buccleuch their home. Mrs. Dey's son, Anthony, purchased the estate from his grandfather in 1865. Colonel Scott died in Buccleuch in 1871 in his ninety-third year. Charles Smith

(continued on page three)

The next scheduled meeting of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

will be on November 18, 2010

from 1:30—3:00 pm

at the

BUCCLEUCH MANSION

Representatives from all Alliance
sites are encouraged to attend.

DIRECTIONS TO BUCCLEUCH PARK

From NJ Tpke: Take exit 9 to Rt 18 North to New Brunswick. Exit Rt 18 at sign for Rt 27 South (to Princeton). This is Albany Street. At 4th light (Railroad Station Plaza) turn right onto Easton Ave. Proceed 4 traffic lights to Huntington St (St Peter's Medical Center on left). Turn right into Buccleuch Park. Road is one way. Midway into park make a left turn towards bandstand. At bandstand, turn right. Parking lot is a short distance further. Follow signs to Mansion.

From Garden State Pkwy: Exit at 129. Get onto NJ Tpke, Exit 11 South. (This is the intersection of the Tpke and Pkwy) Drive south on Tpke to Exit 9. Take Rt 18 North toward New Brunswick and proceed as above.

From the North via I-287: Exit at Easton Ave (Rt 527) and go east towards New Brunswick. Proceed on Easton Ave for 10 traffic lights to Huntington St (St Peter's Medical Center on right, Buccleuch Park on left). Turn left into Buccleuch Park. Proceed as above.

Telephone at the Buccleuch Mansion Museum: 732-745-5094

YOUR LINK TO THE PUBLIC: *The Link*, the newsletter of the Raritan–Millstone Heritage Alliance, is a quarterly publication.

News of major, upcoming events for possible inclusion in the winter issue must be mailed or emailed to the editor no later than December 15, 2010. Please send all items to: George Dawson, 12 Llewelyn Place, New Brunswick, NJ 08901; 732 249-2670.

Please send photos (in .jpeg or .tiff) to Linda Barth, 908-722-7428; barths@att.net. **Material submitted electronically should be in WORD format. Photographs will be scanned and returned. Digital photographs should be submitted in .jpeg or .tiff.**

**Raritan-Millstone Heritage
Alliance**

P.O. Box 5583
Somerset, NJ 08875-5583

*An organization of individuals,
organizations, and sites working to promote
preservation and understanding of the rich,
eventful, and cultural heritage of significant
historical, educational, and cultural sites
located in Central New Jersey*

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The Board of Directors meets on the third
Thursday of March, May, September,
October, and November at designated
historic and museum member
sites in the region.

practiced law there and died in 1893.

In a deed dated November 18, 1911, Anthony Dey presented Buccleuch Mansion and its surrounding properties to the City of New Brunswick "...and on one of the gates at least to have inscribed the name "Buccleuch Park" — a memorial to Colonel Joseph Warren Scott donated by his grandchildren to the City of New Brunswick..." The deed provides that the property be "used for a public park in perpetuity."

With knowledge and approval of Mr. Dey and the other grandchildren, Jersey Blue Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution assumed the care of the interior and furnishings of Buccleuch Mansion and opened it to the public as a museum in 1915. The mansion has been entered on the National Register of Historic Places and the New Jersey State Register of Historic Places.

The furnishings reflect the changes in style which occurred during the approximately 172 years the mansion served as home for its several families. Many of the Scott family furnishings and portraits remain. Together with other items, donated or loaned, they give us a good idea of how this lovely house appeared through the years.

The historic wallpaper in the hallways was printed in Paris in 1815 by DuFour of Macon. Downstairs is the "Monuments of Paris" and upstairs the "Paysage Indien." Two panels of the paper were found in a closet, still in their original condition. They are framed and now hang in the third floor hallway. The colors are quite vibrant.

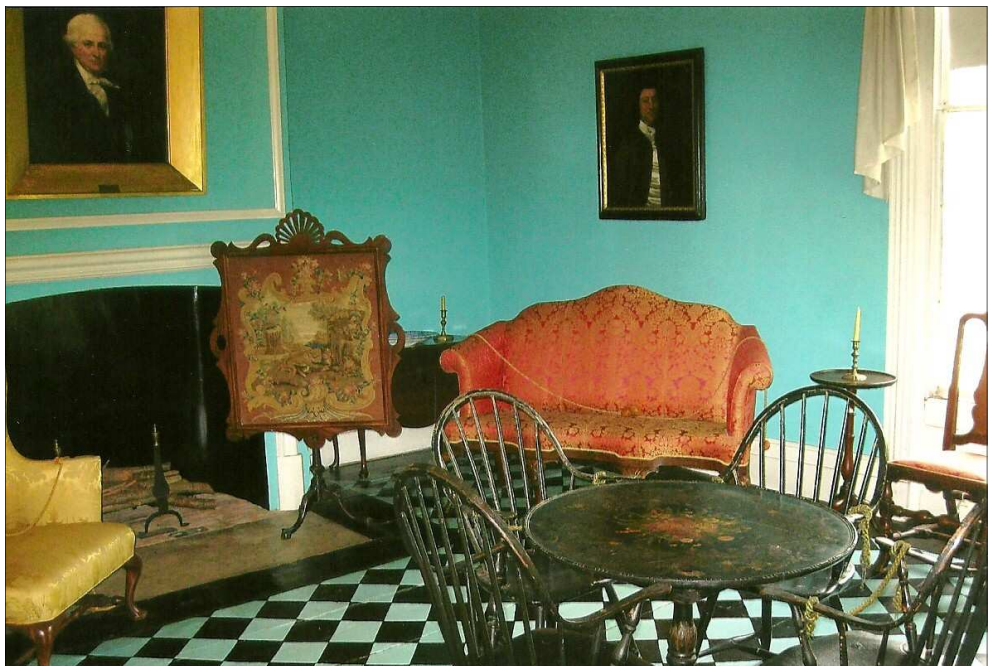
The painted "Scotch" carpet of the staircase risers are of the colors in use during the 1750s. A short story about the clock on the landing, "An Evening at Buccleuch Hall or the Grenadier's Ghost. A Tale of the Old Stair Head Clock," was published in 1842.

The old hand-sewn fire buckets belonged to Dr. Moses Scott. Colonial laws required each house to be equipped with one bucket for each chimney. The gilt eagle over the doorway is hand carved from a single block of wood and is very old. The stick barometer is early 19th century and is marked "G. Bradford, London."

The Anthony White Parlor (below) has a lovely Queen Anne sofa and wing chair. His portrait is on the far wall, builder of the mansion. The Prussian blue walls and painted, checkered floor were the room's 18th-century colors. The mahogany tall case clock works were made by Peter Luepp, a noted New Brunswick silversmith. The case is attributed to Mathew Egerton, a famous cabinet maker in New Brunswick. The Sheraton mahogany secretaire was made by Enos Woodruff in New Jersey about 1800. The Gobelin tapestry firescreen was a wedding gift to Anthony Walton White. The Georgian mirror is mid-eighteenth century. The portrait of Colonel Joseph Warren is over the fireplace and he is wearing the emblem of the Society of the Cincinnati.

The Victorian parlor is graced by a set of rosewood furniture made circa 1850 by John Belter of New York and purchased by the Scotts for Buccleuch. The lyre-back piano stool is by Duncan Phyfe, circa 1820, and the piano is by Firth, Hall & Pond, New York, circa 1850. The mirror came from the Mansion House, a hotel on Albany Street. The portrait is of Colonel Scott as an older man.

The dining room contains a sideboard signed and dated 1811 by Oliver Parsell, whose cabinet shop was on Church Street in New Brunswick. The small table is signed by Matthew Egerton,



while the serving table is attributed to Fenwich Leyer of Middletown, NJ. The wine cabinet came from the Dunham family. The portraits are of three of Colonel Scott's children: Moses Scott, Lavinia (Mrs. Richard Varick Day), and Cornelia (Mrs. John Ogilby).

The office was used by both Colonel Scott and his son, Charles Smith Scott, as a law office. The portraits are from the Hatfield Smith collection and are American primitives. The desk is a partner's desk, circa 1800. The cabinet contains law books of the 1800s. Tradition tells us that the black leather chair belonged to Dr. Moses Scott and was sat in by Washington when he visited his home in New Brunswick.

The northeast bedroom is furnished with pieces dating to the early 1800s. The frieze on the walls is from paper found in the house. The yellow brocade wing chair is a commode chair. The inlaid mahogany flat-fronted secretaire, circa 1800, is signed by Oliver Parsell of New Brunswick. The portrait over the mantle is of Cornelius Low Hardenbergh, who served as mayor of New Brunswick in the 1830s.

The northwest bedroom is known as the Dey Bedroom. The "sleigh" bed has a crazy quilt. The sighing couch is for an afternoon nap. Pictures over the bed are of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Dey. The portrait over the fireplace is of Lavinia Scott Dey., Anthony's mother. It was in this room that a duel was fought, the participants escaping by way of the secret staircase which leads down to the dining room.

The southwest bedroom is furnished with Victorian pieces from the estate of Miss Helen and Miss Julia Williamson. The furniture was bought by their parents in 1875 and was used in the Williamson home in New Brunswick until 1962. Also of interest are the hair wreath, the "bustle" chair, and the beautiful Victorian quilt.



The third floor is a treasure trove of furniture, tools, toys, and memorabilia. Do not miss the framed panels of wallpaper. Imagine those bright colors surrounding you in the downstairs hallways.

The southwest room recreates a child's bedroom as detailed from letters of Josephine Warren Ingrahm Batty, who occupied the room for several years, beginning in 1864. Note the copper bathtub, hoops for skirts, cradle, and complete chamber set. The small fireplace is the only heat source on the third floor.

The northwest room has a sleigh bed with a feather bed and a collection of spinning wheels, carders, and tools for spinning yarn.

The toy room (above) with its lovely fan window has toys from the 1800s and early 1900s. The museum room cases are filled with many interesting items from military and civilian life. The treasures of the attic room include trunks, carriages, tinder boxes, early vacuum, farm equipment, and kitchen kettles and pans.

Bucleuch is open every Sunday from the first Sunday in June to the last Sunday in October from 1-4 pm. There is no admission charge, but contributions are gratefully accepted. Group tours can be scheduled year-round by appointment. Call 732-745-5094. Mailing address: Jersey Blue Chapter, NSDAR, P.O. Box 27, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

NEW BRUNSWICK'S "WHITE HOUSE" (abridged)

by Marjorie Kler

The Buccleuch Mansion, New Brunswick's own White House, stands like a mystical crystal reflecting the lives of those who lived in the structure from 1734 until 1911. Buccleuch Mansion and its surrounding properties were presented by Anthony Dey to the city of New Brunswick to be used as a "resting place for the weary, a lifelong health resort for all."

In dignified grandeur, Buccleuch is located on the banks of the Raritan with a sweeping view of the river. Its location is one of the most commanding and most beautiful in the city. It is said that George Washington, who was familiar with the house, preferred Buccleuch to all other houses with the exception of his own Mount Vernon.

[Editor's note: Marjorie's descriptions of the history and furnishings of the home are detailed in the first article in this issue; she does, however, have some interesting information about the Queen Anne Parlor.]

A beautiful Queen Anne sofa graces the North Drawing Room (Queen Anne Parlor). This sofa is covered in a fabric that was found in Boston, still wrapped in its original paper from the 1700s and brought from England in a sailing vessel. The two side chairs and the two benches are of the Queen Anne style with Spanish feet. They are covered with material done in the then-popular flame stitch.

One of the most fortunate acquisitions is the tall grandfather clock made by a New Brunswick silversmith, Peter Luepp, in 1762 with a case attributed to Matthew Egerton, one of the most famous cabinet makers of New Brunswick. The Queen Anne drop-leaf table was made in New Jersey by Mr. Woodruff of Elizabethtown. The exquisite Queen Anne lowboy was a gift of the Dey family. All the accessories are authentic articles from the 1740-1750 period.

The Jersey Blue Chapter of the DAR is the custodian of the mansion. Tours may be arranged through the chapter by calling curator Judy Gennaro at 732-745-5094..



NEW ON THE BOOK SHELF

Gordon Bond's *James Parker, A Printer on the Eve of Revolution*, was released in October, 2010 as an expanded and revised edition. Bond's in-depth biography chronicles the often difficult life of Parker (1714-1770), who is sometimes under appreciated but nevertheless remains one of the most well known colonial printers. He established the first permanent printing press in New Jersey, at Woodbridge, in the location of the current Parker Press Park. For most information, visit the Garden State legacy's web site at www.gardenstatelegacy.com.

Readers may remember that in 2008 we held a book signing party for Gordon when he released his book for the first time at the First Presbyterian Church, Woodbridge.

CALENDAR OF CENTRAL JERSEY EVENTS

Tuesday, November 16

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow Lives on Past Halloween! Van Harlingen Historical Society of Montgomery Township, in honor of the township's early Dutch heritage, presents "Ichabod Crane, Washington Irving, and the Legend of Sleepy Hollow." Neill Hartley, of the American Historical Theatre, is a convincing Washington Irving, the father of the American short story, who brings the audience into Irving's world of Ichabod Crane and the Legend of Sleepy Hollow. 7:00 p.m., Mary Jacobs Library, 64 Washington Street, Rocky Hill. Admission is free and open to the public including children age 10 and above with an adult. For more information, call 908-874-4820 or visit www.vanharlingen.org.

November 7 and December 17—Linda Russell will perform songs and ballads of the 18th century during a musical concert at the Old Dutch Parsonage State Historic Site, 71 Somerset Street, Somerville. Ms. Russell, well-known for her historic musical interpretation, will sing and play period instruments including hammered dulcimer, guitar and tin whistle.

December 1 through January 9—Morven Museum and Gardens, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton. Annual holiday event, "Festival of Trees." Stroll through the elegant galleries of Morven, festively decorated for the holidays by local businesses and garden clubs. Tickets: Adults \$6, seniors (60 and older) and students, \$5. 609-924-8144.

December 1-5—Jacobus Vanderveer House, Route 202 South, Bedminster, NJ. Annual Colonial Christmas event. Get into the spirit with visits by Santa, colonial musicians, caroling, boutiques for Christmas shopping, and so much more. 908-212-7000, x611.

December 11-12—Abraham Staats House, 17 Von Steuben Lane, South Bound Brook. "Holiday at the Abraham Staats House" annual event. Each room of the house is uniquely and festively decorated for the holidays by community organizations and members of the Friends of the Abraham Staats House. 732-469-3472.

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HISTORICAL RESTORATION — OUR PRECIOUS HERITAGE

By David Hale

At the time this article was written, David Hale was the editor of *The Journal* and a senior at Bridgewater-Raritan (NJ) East High School. He later majored in history and international relations at Georgetown University.



Last year, hundreds of thousands of people visited America's historical restoration projects. Educators, historians, and students all used these various "museum villages" for research and reference work. But the majority of individuals who spent time at these museums were average people, out for an enjoyable time, while learning something of their past.

Many of these restoration projects started out as private collections and evolved into displays for the general public. We are lucky that the benefactors chose to place these objects in their natural setting, so as to suggest the original locations of the objects and their uses, rather than displaying these items in glass cases.

Perhaps the most noted of these museum villages in Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts, the work of Albert and Cheney Wells. Well known also in Winterthur Museum in Delaware (not a village, but nonetheless a museum of authentically restored period rooms), the idea of Henry du Pont. Another is the Williamsburg restorations in Virginia, financed by the Rockefeller family. The Shelburne Museum in Vermont is another of note, and it was developed from the collections of Mrs. Kathy Prentiss Murphy. These projects, taken as a whole,

are a remarkable amalgam of the everyday life of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and of the economic, social, political, and religious forces that shaped our nation. Much of American taste and culture can be summed up in these institutions.

The creation of these living museums, where actual crafts and everyday tasks are carried out and displayed, is not just for "dusty historians" and students of the antique. It is also (and primarily) for the greater understanding and enrichment of the average American. Our lives are greatly enriched by contact with, and appreciation of, the way our forebears lived and the things which their culture produced. This fundamental comprehension of the ways of our ancestors is so necessary to our — and posterity's — solving of problems. From our experiences and past, we learn how to deal with the present and the future.

The museum village concept accomplishes the objective of allowing us to relate to this heritage. It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Certainly this must be true, many times over, of restorations. Here it is as though we were set back in time. We can visualize three-dimensionally and in "living color" this heritage with all the accompanying smells and sounds. There is no other means to produce such feelings and emotions and so much understanding of our past.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to those individuals and groups who have struggled, and are still struggling, to collect and preserve these precious artifacts and buildings. If it had not been for their persistent efforts, the tangible evidence of our history and heritage would be lost forever, and we as a nation would be much the poorer for it.



RARITAN MILLSTONE HERITAGE ALLIANCE

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Thank you!
Visit our website: raritanmillstone.org

The Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance consists of committed individuals and organizations representing sites within the region of Raritan and Millstone systems. In an area that has continually contributed to the strength of the United States, we seek through our programs to promote, protect and preserve an understanding of our rich historical, cultural and educational heritage as we work to be a model for current and future generations by promoting the rich heritage of our American society.



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