



The Cannon

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GENERAL HENRY KNOX MUSEUM

Spring 2009

Montpelier Addresses a Washington, DC, Club

The General Henry Knox Museum, largely through the efforts of vice chair Molly Kellogg, was able to reach a broad audience in the Washington, DC, area in early March. George Washington's Mount Vernon and the Society of the Cincinnati are co-sponsoring a new exhibition, *George Washington and His Generals*, for which they have borrowed Henry Knox's Society of the Cincinnati medal from The General Henry Knox Museum's collections. To celebrate the exhibition opening, on March 4th all three organizations were invited to speak to a crowd of about a hundred at the Sulgrave Club, a prominent women's club formed for literary, musical, artistic and social purposes.



(Left to right) Montpelier director of education Ellen Dyer, Jack D. Warren, executive director of Anderson House (headquarters of the Society of the Cincinnati) and James Rees, executive director of George Washington's Mount Vernon.

In the days following, board chair Patrick Cardon, vice chair Molly Kellogg, executive director Douglas Winterich and director of education Ellen Dyer visited the exhibition at Mount Vernon's new Reynolds Education Center, met with Congresswoman Chellie Pingree and Senator Olympia Snowe's offices, paid visits to their colleagues at Dumbarton House, the National Archives and the Society of the Cincinnati's Anderson House, met with museum supporters at a dinner hosted by board member Holly Boyd Ruffin, and enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the home of museum supporter Doris Buffett.

Knox's medal will be on exhibit at Mount Vernon until January 10, 2010. For more information see www.mountvernon.org.

Bob Schieffer, CBS News chief Washington Correspondent, to be Guest Speaker and Gala Honoree

Veteran journalist Bob Schieffer, marking 40 years with CBS News, is The General Henry Knox Museum's guest speaker and Gala honoree this year. He will make a public presentation 6 p.m., Thursday, August 6, at The Strand Theatre in Rockland, and will speak and be honored at a 7:30 p.m. Gala reception and dinner to follow at Camden National Bank's historic Spear Block location in Rockland.

Schieffer will speak at The Strand about his 52-year career in journalism, including his role as moderator of "Face the Nation" since 1991 and his coverage of national politics. He will then answer questions from the audience. In addition, he will speak about and sign copies of his new book, *Bob Schieffer's America*.

Schieffer has covered all four major beats in the nation's capital—the White House, the Pentagon, the State Department and Capitol Hill. He has been Chief Washington correspondent since 1982 and congressional correspondent since 1989 and has covered every presidential campaign and been a floor reporter at all the Democratic and Republican National Conventions since 1972.

Schieffer had planned to retire in 2008. Instead, he published his third book, moderated the final debate of the 2008 campaign, received an Emmy for lifetime achievement, was recipient of the Leonard Zeidenberg First Amendment Award by the Radio-Television News Directors Association, was named a "Living Legend" by the Library of Congress, and, with his



CBS News Chief Washington Correspondent Bob Schieffer

country music band Honky Tonk Confidential, made his debut at the Grand Ole Opry.

"It was some kind of year," Schieffer said. "When I told my boss, Sean McManus, president of CBS News and Sports, that I wanted to retire, he said, 'Don't you want to stick around to see one more campaign?' It was the best advice I ever got; I wouldn't have missed it for the world." Schieffer, who had also moderated the final presidential debate in 2004, received widespread praise for his handling of the third and final 2008 debate.

The museum's Development Committee has made arrangements for Schieffer's appearance. Previous honorees are Cokie Roberts in 2008, Brian Lamb in 2007 and David McCullough in 2006.

Proceeds from both The Strand event and the Gala will benefit the museum's education and preservation programs. Tickets for The Strand—\$35 general admission, \$25 members—will go on sale June 30. For more information, call (207) 354-0858.

Visitor Information

207-354-8062

info@knoxmuseum.org

www.knoxmuseum.org

Open Memorial Day Weekend
through Columbus Day Weekend
and the first weekend in December

10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Tuesday through Saturday
Closed Sunday and Monday

Admission Fees

Adults	\$7
Seniors (62+)	\$6
Children (6 to 14)	\$4
Children (under 5)	Free
Family Limit	\$18

Membership Categories

Student	\$5
Individual	\$25
Family	\$40
Revere Circle	\$100
Knox Circle	\$250
Washington Circle	\$500
Patriot Circle	\$1,000

Privileges of Membership

- Free admission to the Museum
- Admission to all Special Events, Lecture Series & Workshop programs at no or reduced fee
- 10% discount in the Museum Gift Shop, The Thomaston Café & Bakery and The Personal Book Shop
- *The Cannon* newsletter published twice a year

All group tours need to make a reservation through the Museum Manager's Office. Please contact 207-354-8062 for details and admission prices.



From the private collection of Mary Doering

Maine Community Heritage Project Unveiled June 5

Mark your calendar for June 5th! At 5 p.m., at Watts Hall on Main Street in Thomaston, Thomaston's new heritage web site will be unveiled. A collaboration among the Thomaston Public Library, the Thomaston Historical Society, Georges Valley High School and The General Henry Knox Museum, this yearlong project was made possible through the Maine Memory Network, a statewide digital museum run by the Maine Historical Society.



Gunner's mate Matthew Hansbury

Museum's Curatorial and Education Assistant Goes to the Middle East

Matthew Hansbury, the museum's curatorial and education assistant, as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves, has been deployed to the Middle East. Matt left the Museum in April and hopes to return in January 2010. We all wish Matt and his family—wife Julianne and son Phin—the very best during the coming year.

While Matt is gone, Noelani Crawford of Union will be filling in as the curatorial and education assistant. Noe has more than 11 years' of experience working in various aspects of exhibit installation, collections management and collections maintenance in such places as the Peabody Museum at Harvard University and the Maine State Museum. We are very pleased to welcome Noe to the museum family.

Revolution and Evolution: Historic Costume Exhibition at Montpelier July 13–August 22

Mary Doering, history of decorative arts faculty member at Corcoran College of Art and Design and private collector of eighteenth century clothing, will be a guest curator at The General Henry Knox Museum. An exhibition of highlights from her collection, which was praised by *Arts and Antiques* magazine as one of the top

private collections in the United States, will be on display throughout the mansion from July 13–August 22. The exhibition opens with a 7 p.m. talk by Ms. Doering on Monday, July 13, before which attendees will be free to peruse the exhibition. Thereafter, the exhibition may be seen during two specialized tours led by local costume historian Julie Stackpole, on Saturday, July 25 at 1 p.m. and again on Friday, August 21st at 10 a.m., or during the museum's regular tours. The cost of the opening talk is \$15 for museum members, \$20 for general admission, and the specialized tours are \$5 for museum members and \$10 for general admission. Advanced registration is necessary for the specialized tours. This exhibition is being held in conjunction with the museum's summer teacher institute, Exploring Early American History—Everyday Life. For more information, or to register, please call the museum at (207) 354-0858.

The General Henry Knox Museum Works on Museum Assessment Program, Public Dimension Assessment

The General Henry Knox Museum was selected to participate in the Museum Assessment Program (MAP) of the American Association of Museums (AAM) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The General Henry Knox Museum will take part in a public dimension assessment, which considers the public's perception, experience and involvement with the museum. The assessment will assist the museum in effectively communicating with the public and help the museum identify and strengthen collaborations with other organizations around the country. It includes a review of all the ways in which the museum interacts with its audiences, including marketing, public relations, audiences development, and exhibitions.



MAP team

Since November 2008 12 people from throughout The General Henry Knox Museum family have been working on the Museum Assessment Program's Public Dimension Assessment. Eight members of the MAP team are museum volunteers, who have dedicated several months to meeting, completing the self-study workbook, and creating several public involvement activities, including a focus group and an informal canvassing of public perception about the museum. Once the resulting data is compiled, the team will submit the results to an AAM approved consultant, who will suggest ways in which the museum can better serve and get its message out to the public.

Your help and feedback may be solicited as part of the MAP assessment and will be an important part of identifying the museum's strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and challenges.

The museum expresses its gratitude for all the hard work our MAP team members have done with the project. Additionally we want to thank you, our membership. You are the reason why the museum has grown significantly in the last decade, and only you can ensure that the Museum continues to grow and prosper in the next decade.

New Board Members at The General Henry Knox Museum

- **Mary Alice Bird** joined the Board of Trustees in 2008. She completed her master's degree in English Literature at the University of Tulsa. From 1994–95 she was the Director of Development at the Farnsworth Art Museum. She and her husband John live in Spruce Head, Maine, and have three children.
- **David Farmer** joined the Board of Trustees in 2008. From 1968–69 to the present he has held academic positions as visiting instructor, instructor, adjunct instructor, adjunct professor, faculty and academic advisory committee member and lecturer at many colleges and universities. He and his wife Pat live in Cushing, Maine.
- **C. Patrick Mundy** joined the Board of Trustees in 2008. He has a BA in psychology from Yale University, 1961, and graduated from the University of Maryland Law School in 1964. Currently he is teaching American History at the Maine State Prison, sponsored by the University of Maine. He and his wife Anna B. McCoy live in Spruce Head, Maine.
- **Holly Boyd Ruffin** joined the Board of Trustees in 2008. She graduated from Garland College in Boston and attended the Sorbonne University in Paris, France. She has held positions as a budget analyst for IBM, business manager with a DC

real estate company, IT manager at the U.S. House of Representatives, consultant and database designer. She and her husband Nick live in McLean, Virginia, and Rockport, Maine.

- **Cali Nickerson Veilleux** joined the Board of Trustees in 2008. She has held positions as nursing assistant, account manager, owner/operator of an experiential, hands-on education facility, director of outdoor education, director of education/assistant farm manager, director of mentoring program at Brunswick High School and hospice volunteer. She and her husband Kaja live in Spruce Head, Maine.

MID COAST MAINE VOLUNTEER FAIR 'A Celebration of Community Service'

The General Henry Knox Museum and the Farnsworth Art Museum will co-host a Volunteer Fair on Saturday, May 30, 2009, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the Farnsworth in Rockland, Maine.

Museums and historical societies in Mid-Coast Maine are invited to share the mission and volunteer opportunities of their organizations in a casual atmosphere among colleagues. We invite them to join us to raise awareness of the importance of community service.



David McCullough with Doris Buffett and teachers from 2008 Summer Teacher Institute



David McCullough with 2008 Teachers at The Center for The Study of Early American History



2008 Summer Teacher Institute on field trip to Colonial Pemaquid, Maine

Everyday Life in Early American History the Subject of Summer Teacher Institute

July 13–17 and 20–24, The General Henry Knox Museum's Center for the Study of Early American History will explore everyday life in 18th- and early 19th-century America. The program, which will welcome teachers from all over the Northeast and beyond, will examine how early Americans lived, worked and interacted. Participants will partake in a mix of classroom lectures, hands-on activities and field trips. And this year the Museum will present a historic costume exhibition in conjunction with the institute, curated by private collector Mary Doering (see page 2, *Revolution and Evolution*, for more details).

Public speakers during this year's institute include Mary Doering, opening the costume exhibition; Richard Shenkman, editor of the History News Network and author of such books as *I Love Paul Revere Whether He Rode or Not* and *One Night Stands with American History*; Dr. Elizabeth Johns, professor emerita at the University of Pennsylvania and author of *American Genre Painting: The Politics of Everyday Life*; and Dr. James Kirby Martin, author of *Drinking in America*. For more information in the schedule of events on page 7.

Funding from the Sunshine Lady Foundation and the Institute for Museum and Library Services allows this program to be offered free of charge. Some free housing is available for students not able to commute.

Volunteers are always needed to help with this program. Please contact the museum at (207) 354-0858 or center@knoxmuseum.org if you would like to sponsor a meal for the teachers, provide a spare bedroom for someone too far away to commute, or lend a helping hand at one of the public programs.



Members, volunteers and staff enjoy Executive Director Doug Winterich demonstrating musket techniques

Volunteer Update

We have some good news to share with you. During our 2008 Holiday Open House, four new volunteers signed up to join The General Henry Knox Museum and in January another volunteer has offered to help Suzi Barbee, our new gift shop manager with the inventory. Hopefully this is just the beginning of many more joining during our first of two volunteer orientation meetings, the first to be held on April 24th and the second to be held on June 15th.

The Henry Knox Reading Circle

Since the fall edition of *The Cannon* the Reading Circle has studied: *James Madison and The Struggle for The Bill Of Rights*

(Richard Labunski); *Liberty Without Anarchy* (Minor Myers); and *Six Frigates* (Ian W. Toll). Several readings, pausing for pondering, are necessary to comprehend the finesse of Madison's nurturing of *The Bill Of Rights*. But even single exposure conveys the patient subtlety, hard work capacity and disciplines (practically invisible) ego of the future 4th president. Much is owed to him.

Members who read Minor Myer's book reported favorably and especially valued the connection with our own Henry Knox. Extraneous disapproval of The Society of The Cincinnati erupts periodically, apparently because membership passes to descendents and thereby "creates an aristocracy." Well, right of association is a constituent of liberty.

One expects, too, that The Cincinnati is among the guardians of American history and liberty.

Six Frigates is rich in anecdotes, characters and scenarios that augment history rendered by others for 1775–1814. Author Ian Toll forces one from the library to the shipyard, quarter and gun decks and the oak and pine groves of southeastern states. Naval architect Joshua Humphreys of Philadelphia is a fascinating character. Irascible, opinionated, cantankerous. He was the father of those six frigates with live oak scantlings that so amazed and upset the Royal Navy.

Commencing in March, our new study will be Abraham Lincoln. Any book!

The Knox Museum Joins Evacuation Day Celebration

The General Henry Knox Museum participated on March 14th in the Evacuation Day celebration in Roxbury, Massachusetts. Arranged every year by the South Boston Citizens' Association's Michael Bare to commemorate the British evacuating Boston on March 17, 1776, this year's celebration took place at Fort Hill in Roxbury followed by a ceremony and reception at the Dillaway-Thomas House. Henry Knox was prominent in the day's proceedings: He designed the defenses on Fort Hill, the project in which Knox's talent first caught George Washington's eye; the ceremony at the Dillaway-Thomas House included the dedication of a new Knox Trail marker, identifying one of the final legs of Knox's journey with his noble train of artillery from Fort Ticonderoga to north of Boston; and the reason for the celebration, Evacuation Day, was made possible by those 59 cannon Knox was able to deliver successfully to General Washington. Other groups participating in the events included the Roxbury Heritage State Park, Discover Roxbury, and the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati.

2008 Annual Holiday Open House

The General Henry Knox Museum celebrated their annual Holiday Open House on Saturday and Sunday, December 6th and 7th. The two-day event drew more than 515 visitors who enjoyed listening to musical performances in the Oval Room. The museum gift shop did a brisk business as visitors began their holiday shopping. The holiday punch and cookies as well as the baked foods table were never without a crowd of family and friends.

Area florists and volunteers—Andrus Flowers of Rockland, The Bridal Bouquet of Thomaston and The Green Thumb of Rockport, The Heirloom Garden of Maine of Montville, Weskeag Farms of Thomaston along with volunteers, trustees and members of the museum's Landscape Committee—generously donated their time and material to decorate rooms on the Salon level, the 1790s kitchen, orientation room and museum gift shop with traditional greens, fruits and berries.

Many thanks to both florists and volunteers who decorated and willingly room-sat during the afternoon.



Lexington Minutemen on Evacuation Day, March 14, 2009, in Roxbury, Massachusetts

In Memory/Memorials

Holland "Holly" Coors, a strong supporter of The General Henry Knox Museum through the Castle Rock Foundation, died January 18, 2009, in Golden, Colorado. During her last visit to Montpelier in 2003, she attended a luncheon at the home of Board member Molly Kellogg.

Dr. James Thomas Williams, died February 4, 2009, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Dr. Williams was a native of Picayune MS. He was an orthopedic surgeon and philanthropist. In 1999 he retired to spend more time at his beloved home in Spruce Head, Maine where he and his wife Anne became avid supporters and volunteers at Montpelier. His wife has asked that memorial donations may be made to the Landscape Garden Fund at Montpelier.

Andrew Newell Wyeth, 1917–2009
Andrew Wyeth, a Life member of The General Henry Knox Museum, died January 16, 2009, in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. He was the youngest of the five children of illustrator and artist N. C. (Newall Convers) Wyeth and his wife, Carolyn Bockius Wyeth. He was the brother of inventor Nathaniel Wyeth and artist Henriette Wyeth Hurd. He was home-tutored and learned art from his father, who was also responsible for his son's love of rural landscapes, sense of romance, and a feeling for Wyeth family history. He and his wife Betsy have had a major impact on cultural institutions in the mid-coast areas.

Constant Contact

It has been more than a year ago that The General Henry Knox Museum began a monthly electronic bulletin called Constant Contact. Each month we endeavor to report goings on at the "big white house on the hill." Please tell your friends and family about our email page.

Familiarize them with our collections and interesting and varied programs, including our innovative teacher programs. The bulletin is free and we welcome your feedback. Let us know what you are interested in and offer suggestions for what Montpelier can offer you. Email at info@knoxmuseum.org

Schedule of Events

Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Museum opens for the season

Saturday, May 30 10:30 a.m.–3 p.m. at the Farnsworth Art Museum
Mid Coast Maine Volunteer Fair, 'A Celebration of Community Service', co-hosted by The General Henry Knox Museum. Registration required.

Friday, June 5, 5 p.m. at Watts Hall
Unveiling of the Thomaston Heritage Web Site. The Thomaston Historical Society, Thomaston Public Library, Georges Valley High School and The General Henry Knox Museum unveil their collaborative community history web site. Refreshments served. Free and open to the public.

Thursday, June 11, 7 p.m. in the Oval Room
Ellen Dyer, *Oval Gardens, Duck Ponds and Ha-has: Henry Knox's Landscaping and the Knox Museum*. The Knox Museum's director of education gives an illustrated talk on the original Montpelier's landscaping and how it will impact the museum's master plan for the campus. Free and open to the public.

Thursday, June 25, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. at the Cole House
Crewelwork class. Julie Stackpole, costume historian, will teach the basics of crewelwork embroidery. Basic materials to take home included in registration. Museum members \$65; general admission \$75. Space limited, reservations required.

Saturday, July 4
Fourth of July parade in Thomaston
Museum open for tours 1–4 p.m.

Wednesday, July 8, 7 p.m., Concert
Maine Friends of Music concert in the Oval Room. Reservations required. Museum members \$12; general admission \$15; students \$8.

Monday, July 13–Friday, July 17 and Monday, July 20–Friday, July 24
Everyday Life in Early American History: Summer Teacher Institute
For information or reservations on the following programs call (207) 354-0858

• **Tuesday, July 14–Saturday, August 22:**
Revolution and Evolution: Federal Era Clothing. Historic costume exhibition throughout Montpelier with guest curator

Mary Doering (see article on page 2)

• **Monday, July 13, 6 p.m.** in the Oval Room: Exhibition opening night. Peruse the costume exhibition, followed by an illustrated talk by Mary Doering. Museum members \$15; general admission \$20.

• **Thursday, July 16, 7 p.m.** Rockland Elks Lodge: Richard Shenkman, *A Hard Look in the Mirror*. Historian, investigative journalist and author of *Just How Stupid Are We* puts American politics in historical perspective. Museum members \$15; general admission \$20.

• **Monday, July 20, 7 p.m.** at the Farnsworth Art Museum Auditorium: Elizabeth Johns, *Everyday Life in Early America: Mining Pictures for Details*. University of Pennsylvania professor emerita gives an illustrated talk examining what early American paintings can tell us about how Americans lived, from the 1790s to the Civil War. Co-sponsored by the Farnsworth Art Museum. Museum members \$15; general admission \$20.

• **Thursday, July 23, 7 p.m.** at the Hutchinson Center auditorium: James Kirby Martin, *From "Good Creature" to "Demon Rum."* University of Houston professor examines drinking in early American history. Museum members \$15; general admission \$20. Bus available from museum to Hutchinson Center in Belfast for \$8, register in advance.

Saturday, July 25, Henry Knox 259th Birthday Celebration. Museum open for tours 12–4p.m.

Saturday, July 25, 1 p.m.: Costume historian Julie Stackpole leads tours focusing on the historic costume exhibition *Revolution and Evolution*. Museum members \$5; general admission \$10. Space is limited, advance registration required.

Thursday, August 6, 6 p.m. *An Evening with Bob Schieffer at The Strand Theatre.* Lecture with Bob Schieffer, CBS News Chief Washington Correspondent. Book signing precedes lecture, 4–5:30 p.m. Museum members \$25, general admission \$35.

Saturday and Sunday, August 8–9, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Revolutionary Encampment at Montpelier

Thursday, August 20
The General Henry Knox Museum Annual Meeting

Friday, August 21, 10 a.m.: Costume historian Julie Stackpole leads tours focusing on the historic costume exhibition *Revolution and Evolution*. Museum members \$5; general admission \$10. Space is limited, advance registration required.

Tuesday, August 25, 6:30 p.m.: Matthew Simmons, *Early Patents: Land Ownership in Maine and the Waldo Patent*. For the Museum's annual membership reception, Simmons shares his research into how land patents shaped American history. Museum members free; general admission \$10. Reception follows.

Saturday through Monday, October 10–12
Fall Harvest weekend
Museum open for tours 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Summer tour season ends

Saturday and Sunday, December 5–6, 1–4 p.m. Annual Holiday Open House

Museum Gift Shop

During the winter months along with all the snow and ice, Carol Rudisaile and I counted and moved book shelves from the museum manager's office and dusted and rearranged the shop so it is more spacious. On Monday, February 16th we held our first annual President's Day Sale. Although business was slow we still have many mark-downs left for our summer visitors. Many of the items are reduced and lots of books are still 40% off.

I am extremely grateful to Carol and Harvey Rudisaile who will be revising the way we keep our records and inventory, which now will be done on a monthly basis. I went to the New England Gift Show on March 22nd in Portland and the Boston Gift Show on March 29th to scout out new vendors and items.

We always appreciate suggestions about what you'd like to see in the museum gift shop or items you see in your travels that we should be selling. Just let me know. We truly want our gift shop to be a place volunteers and members come for their gifts and books.

Suzi Barbee, Manager, Museum Gift Shop

Montpelier

The General Henry Knox Museum

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www.knoxmuseum.org

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The General Henry Knox Museum is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to maintaining Montpelier as a museum and fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of General Knox's life and times, and to providing educational, cultural and community events.

Planned Giving Opportunities at Montpelier

There are numerous tax-saving ways to make a gift or bequest to The General Henry Knox Museum:

- A bequest gift through your will
- A charitable gift annuity
- A deferred payment charitable gift annuity
- A charitable remainder unitrust
- A charitable remainder annuity trust

We welcome all members of the Museum and their friends to join in establishing a legacy to TGHKM through a planned gift.

For additional information, please write or call:

Director of Planned Giving
The General Henry Knox Museum
PO Box 326,
Thomaston ME 04861
207-354-8062



Ellen Dyer, director of education and The Center for the Study of Early American History and Arch O'Reilly of The Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati (see page 6)