



# Trent House View

Spring 2008 • [www.williamtrenthouse.org](http://www.williamtrenthouse.org)

Jointly published by the Trent House Association and the City of Trenton, Division of Culture

## President's Message

Now that Spring is here, we look back to December's Holiday Open House and Greens Sale and recall the lively period music presented by Nancy Shill and Charles Pellegrino with violin, guitar and voice in the best parlor, the "new" furniture – accurate reproductions of early 18th century tables, stools and bench – in the kitchen, and the aromas of fresh cut greens and refreshments, provided by Trent House

Association trustees, that drew visitors to the carriage house.

In the Fall newsletter we spoke about Executive Assistant Kate Graves's many accomplishments over the summer. The list goes on: we now have a telephone and answering system in the THA office (609-989-0087) and an email address ([trenthouseassociation@verizon.net](mailto:trenthouseassociation@verizon.net)). Grant applications continue to be an

important pursuit: currently we are seeking funds from the Bunbury Company (the source of a previous \$10,000 grant) and from the New Jersey Cultural Trust (a new source).

Our plan to combine the annual fund appeal and membership dues turned out to be a good decision as your response to the 2007 appeal was very encouraging. Our return was higher than in recent years, and now, with our eye-catching new brochure, we've already attracted some new members, and we anticipate more to follow.

Also, we mentioned downsizing the board and other revisions to the bylaws. The board has approved several amendments that you, as members, will be asked to approve at the Annual Meeting on May 4. Recommended amendments to the bylaws and the slate of officers and trustees will be mailed to you in April with an announcement of the meeting.

News about the Museum Shop includes not only new merchandise (that you will read about elsewhere in this newsletter), but the expansion and improvement of our space.

Other exciting news is that we will continue to work with Martha Katz-Hyman who successfully developed our Slave Furnishing Plan. She will develop a plan for the next phase of furnishing the kitchen, with cooking equipment and utensils. Once that work gets underway, our focus will turn to so-called "small" – ceramics, glass and metalwares – for the rest of the house.

Be sure to join us for refreshments and a preview of the new orientation exhibition by Frank McKelvey at our Spring Open House on Sunday, May 4, from 1 – 4 p.m. There will be a brief business meeting at 1:30 p.m.

— Suzanne Crilley

## Director's Report

With milder weather soon upon us we will be able to begin our outdoor projects: masonry restoration and our colonial era kitchen garden!

The City awarded a contract to Masonry Preservation Group from Merchantville, New Jersey to make repairs to the foundation of the brick perimeter fencing and patch point where necessary, as well as patch point the house and repair the root cellar. We've already had our first site meeting and as soon as the weather cooperates, we'll be able to move forward with this important project.

Frank McKelvey from McKelvey Museum Associates will be our speaker at the Trent House Association's Annual Meeting on May 4th. His program begins at 2PM when he'll give us a sneak preview of the orientation exhibition soon to be installed in the Carriage House and talk about the exhibit process, the interpretation of objects, etc. The house will also be open for tours throughout the afternoon. Plan to spend time before or after the meeting to see the new kitchen furnishings!

We've made some significant changes to our garden programming this year. We'll continue to host Fresh From the Garden Fridays from 11 AM to 3PM beginning July 11th and running through September

26th. This year, we'll utilize the talents of our in house staff- Kathy McFadden, Alla Nedoresow and volunteer garden tender, Charlotte Moyer, to present demonstrations and recipes based on what's available from the garden throughout the season. Museum educators Norma van Doren and Amanda Plumb will also join the team as garden tenders at other times during the week.

A variety of Saturday afternoon programs throughout the summer and fall are scheduled to explore food-related subjects. We'll learn about colonial tea substitutes, various herbal remedies, the availability in colonial times of exotic imports such as coffee, chocolate and spices, how to churn butter, and a special harvest-themed program. So, be sure to go to the Calendar of Events and mark your personal calendars! Or go to our website: [www.williamtrenthouse.org](http://www.williamtrenthouse.org) for up-to-date program information. You won't want to miss any of these FREE events! Funding for our colonial era kitchen garden and programs is made possible by General Operating Support grants from the NJ Historical Commission, Department of State.

— Rhett Pernot, Museum Director &  
Historic Sites Supervisor Division of  
Culture City of Trenton

# Innovative Technology To Support Colonial Vision

By Kate Graves

The Trent House Association's Strategic Plan articulates a Vision Statement "to bring the 1720s alive for the 21st century through an accurate and dynamic presentation of the William Trent House." Generous ongoing support from our Board, our members, and from the New Jersey Historical Commission have allowed us to make much progress. The best available scholarly research has been utilized to create and implement Furnishing Plans for the house and specifically the kitchen area, where new reproduction pieces have recently been installed. These beautiful pieces are fully functional, and will be used in programs and demonstrations to illustrate kitchen life in Trent's time.

This year we plan to engage Martha Katz-Hyman, author of The Slave Furnishing Plan for the William Trent House, to research a new report regarding sources for the kitchen utensils and accoutrements listed in the 1726 Inventory. Four reproduction

candlestands and a daybed based on examples in the Philadelphia Museum of Art collection will also be included with her proposed Plan in an upcoming grant application to the Bunbury Company.

The Association's efforts to realize the Vision for the 1719 William Trent House works in cooperation with the City of Trenton, which sponsors the website, [www.williamtrenthouse.org](http://www.williamtrenthouse.org).



*Board member Anne Clementson sitting on a reproduction bench.*

Cultural Trust. Our request is aligned with a stated objective "to attract and serve a diverse community of scholars, students and the public at large." This proposal seeks funding for development of innovative technologies to expand the existing website. Podcasts, cell phone tours and other interactive options will be added, along with an online, e-mailable version of the Trent House View and a 'virtual' Gift Shop. These vibrant features will help us to strengthen our organizational base by broadening our geographic reach; generating greater public awareness, program participation and revenues.

Recently we collaborated to submit an Institutional and Financial Stabilization Grant Application to the New Jersey

## Trent House View

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**Amanda Plumb • Norma van Doren**

**Charlotte Moyer**

Garden Tenders

1719 William Trent House Museum

15 Market Street

Trenton, NJ 08611

609-989-3027

## New Information Helps Provide Insight Into William Trent's Household

By Kathy McFadden

From a list of Oxford University Alumni, found at the website Ancestry.com, we learn that William Trent sent his son, James, age 18, to Balliol College, part of Oxford University in 1718. Not only is it interesting to note that Trent paid to have his son educated in England, but it is the first time a birth date can be associated with any of Trent's children from his first marriage. William's son, James, would have been born ca. 1700 and thus about 24 years old at the time of his father's death. It also helps to explain the array books listed in James Trent's will drawn up in 1734 which includes: Keil's Introduction to Natural Philosophy, Boyer's French Dictionary, Wilson's Trigonometry and Turkish History.

We learn from a 1700 London Court Case that in 1698 "...William Trent, who owned the ship (the Harry and Robert), came in her to London with his wife and family from Philadelphia..." Due to the dangers of oversea travel it was fairly uncommon for families to accompany a merchant on a voyage such as this. We know though from letters written at the time of Mary Burge's death that Trent was devoted to her, thus perhaps didn't wish to be parted from her while he made the long journey overseas. It is also interesting to note that the reference refers to Trent, his wife and family. This may be an indication that Trent had other children by his first wife who did not survive into adulthood. The trip date of 1698 also seems to corroborate his previously known trip to London to settle the estate of his brother, James.

# 1719 William Trent House Museum 2008 Calendar of Events

## **Sunday, March 16 • 2 PM** **The State of Dress and Undress** **in the Colonial Period**

Civilian re-enactor Jean Bickal models reproduction garments and uses pictures to illustrate the various materials, styles and social conventions which shaped the clothing women wore in the 18th century.



## **Sunday, May 4, 2008** **Tours 1 – 4 • Program 2 PM** **Spring Open House and** **Orientation Exhibit Preview**

Frank McKelvey, of McKelvey Museum Associates will present a sneak peek at the upcoming Orientation Exhibit in the Carriage House.

## **Saturday, June 14 • 2 PM** **That Blasted Herb!**

In the early 18th century tea was expensive, desirous, and only the very wealthy could afford it. Join us as Stacy Roth explores the creative substitutions—sage, lavender, etc. that colonists found in their gardens and brewed as “tea.”

## **Fridays, July 11 - Sept 26 • 11 am – 2 PM**

### **Fresh From the Garden Fridays**

Join the staff of the Trent House as they conduct garden tours of the William Trent-era kitchen garden and lead garden related demonstrations and activities.

## **Saturday, July 26 • 2 PM** **Remedies from the Kitchen**

Food historian Judith Krall-Russo will show how our ancestors relied on everyday foods that could be found in the kitchen or garden such as honey, spices, onions, and herbs to cure everything from coughs to hiccups. Some of these remedies are practical, some are humorous and some are downright bizarre!

## **Saturday, Aug. 23 • 2 PM** **Staff of Life: Bread and Butter**

Kimberly Costa will discuss the staple of the colonial diet: bread and butter. This is an interactive program. Visitors will be able to churn milk into butter and sample it on freshly baked bread!

## **Saturday, Sept. 20 • 2 PM** **Coffee, Chocolate, Tea, and Spices:** **18th Century Imports into** **the Port of Philadelphia**

Culinary historian Deborah Peterson will lead visitors on a world tour as she talks about our earliest imported foods: coffee, chocolate, tea, spices, sugar, salt, isinglass, hartshorn, gum dragon, Arabic, pearlash, rose and orange waters. She'll answer the questions: what are they, and, where on earth did they come from?

## **Saturday, Oct. 25 • 2 PM** **The Harvest Season**

Autumn was a season of hard work for early colonists. Numerous hours were needed to butcher, preserve, and prepare the many foods that would be used during the long winter months. Food historian, Judith Krall-Russo will show how early colonists prepared for the long winter while celebrating the harvest season.

## **Saturday, Dec. 6 • 2 - 4 PM** **Colonial Candy making**

Kimberly Costa will demonstrate the art of turning orange, lemon, and ginger peels into sweet treats, as well as other tasty candies popular in the colonial era. Holiday wreath and greens sale.

## **Sunday, Dec. 7 • 1 – 4 PM**

### **Holiday Open House and Greens Sale**

An afternoon of fun for the whole family, includes, tours of the Trent House, holiday wreath and greens sale, children's activities, home baked goodies and more.

Check our website for  
further information and events  
[www.williamtrenthouse.org](http://www.williamtrenthouse.org)

All events are FREE  
and the public is WELCOME!

### **Museum Tour Hours**

Daily: 12:30 – 4:00  
Closed Municipal Holidays

The William Trent House was built ca. 1719 by William Trent, a wealthy Philadelphia merchant who established his country seat at the Falls of the Delaware River now known as the City of Trenton. The Museum is owned, maintained, and operated by the City of Trenton, Department of Recreation, Natural Resources & Culture, Division of Culture with support from the non-profit Trent House Association. In addition funding for these programs is provided by General Operating Support grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission, Department of State. For information call 609-989-3027.

## **William Trent House** **Gift Shop Offers** **Expanded Inventory**

The 1719 William Trent House Association is pleased to announce that the Gift Shop is offering an exciting and expanded inventory. New items include first quality 100% cotton embroidered baseball caps and natural lavender soaps and lip balms. Some items available for the young and young-at-heart are tin whistles, quill pens and ink, fresh colonial candy and the newly offered children's gift bags.

On your next visit to the William Trent House, be sure to visit the gift shop to browse the unique selection of goods and treats where you are sure to find plenty to entertain and delight!

### **TRENT HOUSE ASSOCIATION**

15 Market Street  
Trenton, NJ 08611

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

1:30 PM

in the Carriage House

### **PROGRAM**

2:00 PM

Frank McKelvey  
Preview of the new  
Orientation Exhibition

### **TOURS and REFRESHMENTS**

Stacy Roth  
photo by  
Andrew  
Wilkinson



The Blasted Herb™: That lovely hot beverage, tea, was the center of many savored moments and social occasions throughout the 18th century. Following the French and Indian War, despised TAXES made “the fragrant leaf” unfashionable. What did the patriotic housewife drink instead? Find out the answer from Stacy Roth’s unusual costumed presentation of tea lore, history, songs, and poetry Saturday, June 14th at 2:00 PM

## Thank You to 2007 Annual Fund Contributors

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Trenton NJ 08611  
609 989-0087

