



Trent House View

Fall 2014 • www.williamtrenthouse.org

We're 75 years old and we're throwing a party!!



Join us on Saturday, October 18th on the Trent House lawn for a celebration of 75 years as a museum. Mayor Eric Jackson and Mrs. Jackson are our Honorary Chairpersons for this very special occasion. Catered by the ever-popular hot spot, Trenton Social, the early evening cocktail party in a festive tent decorated by Kale's Nursery will include wine, beer and a signature cocktail. Tickets are \$60.00 per person. Advance ticket purchase required: www.williamtrenthouse.org (via PayPal) or mail your check to The Trent House Association, 15 Market Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08611.

Introducing Trenton's Children to the Trent House Kitchen Garden



On three separate days this summer, the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Mercer County, with generous support from their Mary Jane Trimmer Fund, held camps for a total of nearly ninety children from the YMCA, 4-H, and HomeFront programs. The children learned about how produce from gardens and orchards was converted into food for the table in colonial times. They captured and then released pollinators found in the garden, and explored how

food was preserved by drying and pickling. Herbs were smelled and tasted, and they helped make apples into cider, applesauce, and apple jelly. Each group toured the Trent House and participated in games on the grounds.

This is the second year that the Master Gardeners, chaired by Pat Lagunas and Kay Danbury, have conducted these camps. They were joined by Charlie Thomforde, the Trent House Garden's historic horticulturist, and many of their fellow Master Gardeners, and were assisted by the Trent House staff. All involved are looking forward to the 2015 camp season!

The June 1st **Old-fashioned Ice Cream Social** commemorating the 1939 opening of the Trent House Museum was attended by over 300 visitors. Those shown here are enjoying the ice cream, watching as Trustee Doug Kale dips up their ice cream, and checking out the vintage cars from the Mid-Jersey Antique Automobile Club of America.



Still Time to Buy Your Tickets! Our Early American Roots: Monticello Comes to Trenton



*Peter J. Hatch at the White House.
Photo credit: William Yosses*

On Saturday, September 20th, gardeners, foodies, history buffs, organic farmers, food-to-table restaurateurs and patrons, and many others will hear Peter Hatch, Director Emeritus of the

Monticello gardens, speak about restoring Thomas Jefferson's vision at his Virginia estate. The gardens there served as a laboratory for testing new vegetables from around the world, with the results meticulously recorded by Jefferson. This work was testimony to Jefferson's belief that "The greatest service which can be rendered any country is to add a useful plant to its culture."

In addition to his work restoring Monticello's eight-acre Vegetable and Fruit Garden – the topic of his recent book, *A Rich Spot of Earth* – Mr. Hatch has been informal consultant for Michelle Obama's White House kitchen garden as well as to many other historic horticultural projects.

Mr. Hatch's illustrated lecture will be held at the New Jersey State Museum Auditorium at 1 pm, with a reception following at the Trent House. At the reception attendees will have the opportunity to meet Mr. Hatch, have copies of his books signed, and tour the Colonial Garden at the Trent House.

Reservations are required. Tickets are \$30, or \$25 for Trent House Association members. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.williamtrenthouse.org.

Trent House View

Fall 2014

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Acting Director **Samantha Luft**
directortrenthouse@gmail.com

THA Administrator **Beverly B. Mills**
trenthouseassociation@verizon.net

1719 William Trent House Museum
15 Market Street
Trenton, NJ 08611
609-989-0087 THA office
609-989-3027 Museum office
trenthouseassociation@verizon.net
www.williamtrenthouse.org

The 1719 William Trent House Museum
is owned and maintained by the
City of Trenton, with the assistance of the
Trent House Association and general
operating support grants from the
New Jersey Historical Commission.



Graphic Designer **Bonnie Jacobs**
bonniej@bonniejdesign.com

President's Message

Welcome to the 75th Anniversary year at the Trent House. It is an honor to serve as President of the Trent House Association when so many exciting things are happening and we have so much to celebrate.

Since the 1719 William Trent House Museum opened to the public on June 1, 1939, we began our celebration on June 1, 2014 by hosting an Old-fashioned ice cream social. We were delighted when more than 300 people attended to celebrate with us.



We are so grateful for the support and collaboration of the Mercer County Master Gardeners in the garden, hosting the summer camps, and on the September 20 Monticello Comes to Trenton lecture by the nationally known restorer of the Jefferson Garden, Peter Hatch. Buy your tickets early to be sure to get a spot.

We have more exciting news on the building and grounds front. For many years maintenance has been deferred at the Trent House Museum, (you may have noticed the peeling paint) but no longer! Thanks to the City of Trenton for moving forward on this long-awaited project.

In other news, we are grateful to an anonymous donor for the funds to initiate an archeology project to locate the foundation of the 1742 Governor Lewis Morris Kitchen Addition. Look for holes in the ground (more accurately known as "shovel testing") when you come to Archaeology and Apple Day on October 4, another family fun day.

Our big celebration will occur on October 18 with a lawn party that evening. Mayor Jackson and his wife are serving as our honorary chairs, Trenton Social is catering, and it promises to be a fun event.

Members of Madame Trent's Coterie and the William Trent Society will be invited to a tea and talk in mid-November. We will learn about Governor Lewis Morris, he of the famous Kitchen Addition. Preview: one reason Morris wanted the addition built was so that he could provide his slaves with sleeping quarters on the second floor. It should be a fascinating afternoon. After the talk, members of the William Trent Society will be invited to ascend to the cupola for a rare view of Trenton and the Delaware River.

Many historic house museums struggle to find reasons for people to return to their sites. With so much happening at the William Trent House, we are delighted that stasis is not an issue for us. Thanks to our passionate, dedicated, and hardworking trustees and staff for their efforts to make the 1719 William Trent House Museum a vibrant institution and to help it continue in its role as a fascinating destination for tourists and Trenton residents alike.

We need members, donors, docents, volunteers, and trustees to help us thrive and grow, so if you are interested in participating with us, contact us and speak up! We are happy to have you join us at this very exciting time at the 1719 William Trent House Museum.

— Carolyn Stetson

Trent House Rehab Project Progresses

We are pleased to announce that on Monday, August 25, 2014 the last contractor assessment took place at the Trent House Museum and Visitor Center. In addition, Missy Maxwell of SMP Partners, our very capable rehab team leader, did her final walk through. Over the course of the last month or so, we had our kick-off meet and greet and discussed rehab issues with our drainage, roofing, HVAC, architectural and archaeological contractors. Subsequently, they have all given the house a thorough going over in order to facilitate much-needed repairs and stabilization.

We are prepared to expect a few surprises, especially as the HVAC system is ancient and past its prime, and egress for the drainage system is still a bit of a mystery. That being said, the team is very competent and personable, so we expect great things and an excellent outcome. The next step is the report from SMP Partners, who will have received assessments from the individual contractors. Once that has occurred, we should have a game plan and timetable. Stand by....

Our Annual Fund drive kicks off this year at the October 18th Anniversary Lawn Party.

***What is the difference between the Annual Fund and Membership?**

In 2014 the THA reinstated a membership drive separate from the Annual Fund drive. **Membership** is a benefit-based program that encourages individuals to become active in the life of the Trent House. When you become a member, you give a gift that gives back to you. In return you receive discounts on events and programs, 10% gift shop discount, free tours, a bi-annual newsletter, and for members at the Madame Trent's Coterie level or above, an invitation to the special member Tea and Talk in November. Memberships last for a period of one year, beginning on March 1, but you may join at any time.

The **Annual Fund** drive, however, is conducted at the end of the year and the gifts received are intended for unrestricted use in growing and developing our organization. Many people choose to donate both to the Membership Drive and to the Annual Fund Drive, and for that the THA is very grateful. Please consider a gift to the THA Annual Fund.



Stay in touch!
Use this QR code with your smart phone to connect with our website for the latest news.

Calendar of Events Fall & Winter 2014

Saturday, Sept. 20 • 1:00 pm
Still Time to Buy Tickets!

Our Early American Roots: Monticello Comes to Trenton

Peter J. Hatch speaks at the NJ State Museum Auditorium, 205 West State Street, Trenton, followed by a reception and book-signing with Mr. Hatch at the Trent House. \$30 (\$25 for THA Members) Register (via PayPal) at www.williamtrenthouse.org or mail check.

Saturday, Oct. 4 • 11:00 to 3:00 pm
Archaeology Kick-Off Day and Apples Too: In Search of Governor Morris's Kitchen.

Be a part of new archaeological research, and enjoy fresh pressed apple juice and apple activities.

Saturday, Oct. 18 • 4:00 to 7:00 pm
75th Anniversary Lawn Party!

Join the THA and Honorary Chairpersons Mayor and Mrs. Eric Jackson for an early evening cocktail party to celebrate the museum's birthday. \$60.00 per person. Advance ticket purchase required: (via PayPal) at www.williamtrenthouse.org or mail check.

Friday, Dec. 5 • 12:30 to 5:00 pm
Greens Pre-Sale – Be ready for the Holidays!

Beautifully designed table arrangements and decorated wreaths will be available for sale, created by the Garden Club of Trenton. Plus fresh cut Christmas trees, undecorated wreaths, and loose fresh greens.

Saturday, Dec. 6 • 12:30 to 5:00
Annual Open House and Greens Sale

The magnificent Trent House will be decorated for the holidays by the talented members of the Garden Club of Trenton. The Trent House Museum Shop features special items and seasonal gifts. And the Greens Sale continues! Complimentary refreshments.

Patriots Week Events:

Saturday, Dec. 27 • 12:30 pm
Hogmanay!!!!

This celebration of the New Year in Scotland is celebrated at the Trent House because of William Trent's Scottish heritage. Sing along with the Capital Singers of Trenton. Complimentary hot mulled cider and cookies.

Sunday, Dec. 28 • 2:00 pm
Colonial Tea

Susan McLellan Plaisted, proprietress of Heart to Hearth Cookery, presents the etiquette and meaning of taking tea in colonial times. Guests will sample three teas and enjoy homemade gourmet desserts. The tearoom will be set with linens and the famous pink Trent House china. \$18 for non-members, \$15 for members. Reservations required: (via PayPal) at www.williamtrenthouse.org or mail check.

Guided Tours Weds. - Sun. 12:30 to 4:00

Closed municipal holidays. Ample free parking. Our handicap lift is temporarily out of service. Groups by appointment. Call 609-989-3027 or 609-989-0087 or e-mail trenthouseassociation@verizon.net.

Join the Trent House Association!

The Trent House Association's mission is to preserve, with the City of Trenton, the 1719 William Trent House and kitchen garden as an historic house museum used for the purpose of public education. Governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees, the Trent House Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Operating funds are sustained by private donations, fund raising activities, and a general operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission. Please support us!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Basic: Unlimited free tours of the house, 10% discount on gift shop items, discounts on events and programs.

Madame Trent's Coterie: Above benefits + 4 guest passes for tours, discount on events and programs. Invitation to mid-November Members Only Tea and talk on Governor Lewis Morris.

William Trent Society: Above benefits + Director-led tour of the house to include the view from the cupola.

Membership Application Form

You may purchase or renew your membership online using PayPal at www.williamtrenthouse.org or fill in the form below and mail with your check or money order to Trent House Association. *Please indicate membership level by checking the appropriate box*

Level	Dues	Benefits
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$35	Basic
<input type="checkbox"/> Family/Household	\$45	Basic
<input type="checkbox"/> Madame Trent's Coterie	\$100	Basic + guest passes + Tea
<input type="checkbox"/> William Trent Society	\$500	Basic + guest passes + Tea + director's tour
<input type="checkbox"/> *Support the Annual Fund	\$_____	

Memberships last for a period of one year, beginning on March 1 of each year. All members with dues paid in full for the year will be invited to the annual business meeting in May. Individual members are entitled to one vote on matters brought before the membership. Family/Household members and above are entitled to two votes.

Name: _____
(as you would like it to appear in the Trent House View newsletter)
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email Address: _____

Make checks payable to: The Trent House Association and mail to 15 Market St., Trenton, NJ 08611
Contributions are fully tax deductible.

In Search of Governor Morris's Kitchen: New Archaeology at the Trent House

In April, 1742 New Jersey Governor Colonel Lewis Morris wrote a letter to Pennsylvania Governor George Thomas wherein he agreed to rent the Trent House, which Thomas owned at the time, for L60 per year upon agreement that a new wing with a kitchen addition be built that would provide servants quarters above it. He also required improvements to drainage, the installation of gutters, and solutions to dampness and standing water in the cellar -- all problems that still challenge the Museum today! Also, as Governor Morris had heard that the on-site well went dry in the summer months, he asked that the well be made deeper, or a new one dug in another location. He requested that the kitchen addition not abut the house, but be accessed through the northeast corner door via a gangway. In order to accomplish this, an existing porch and bulkhead in that location would have to be removed. He concludes by requesting that the "wing should be finished by September." An interesting note: within the letter, Morris states "Your old house has a new and good roof upon it and with no change may be made a good house for a Laundry tho if you incline to take it downe there is materials enough in it to make a good Laundry in a more convenient place and the roof will be sufficient to cover the wing intend besides." Could this "old" house be Mahlon Stacy's dwelling, Dorehouse, from the original 1679 Quaker settlement? This is a tantalizing possibility, and the archaeological implications enormous, as it is believed that this mansion stood in the same area as the proposed kitchen addition.

By all indications, the addition was completed that year (1742), and it appears that Morris was fairly successful in obtaining a wing that matched his specifications. The first published image of the house and kitchen may be seen in the c.1750 map shown here. In an advertisement in the Pennsylvania Journal, 12 July 1759, owner Robert Lettis Hooper advertised the house, then known as Kingsbury House, (so named by Governor Morris) for purchase or lease. The ad describes the house, "with a Large Brick Kitchen, 30 Feet by 20, with a Handsome pav'd Gangway between the House and Kitchen, 14 Feet by 20 Long, the Kitchen two Storey High, with a Well in it, and Four handsome Apartments above all for Servants, with a Fire-place in one room, if

any of the Servants should be ill." Additionally, a To Let ad in the Philadelphia Gazette and Universal Daily Advertiser of 6 March 1800 mentions a brick kitchen with "wafh houfe."

From 1844 to 1905, several modifications and additions to this wing and the house transpire, until finally during the WPA Restoration Project of 1934 to 1936, all additions to the house are removed. It is possible that any vestiges of the c.1742 addition were lost at that time.



Image Courtesy of Ian Burrow, Hunter Research

From 2000-2003, a series of public archaeological programs completed shovel testing over much of the current property with the exception of the northeast quadrant, which includes the site of the c.1742 kitchen addition. During monitoring of the restoration of the Trent House perimeter drainage system, excavation by Hunter Research revealed that foundations of the 18th and 19th century additions remain about 1-½ feet below present grade. Examination of the east side of the Trent House revealed a buried historic soil horizon that strongly suggests that the additions did not have basements. (Hunter Research, Inc. 2003) These investigations also uncovered several surviving foundation fragments:

- An east-west wall running east from the northeast corner of the Trent House. Interpreted at the time as a mid-19th century feature, this could be the north wall of the 1742 gangway or the Redmond's reinforcement of it in the 1850s.
- A wall fragment extending east from the east wall of the Trent House about 10 feet south of the northeast corner of the house. This appeared to be 18th century in date and was interpreted as the south wall of the gangway, although it may be an internal feature given that the gangway was evidently more likely 14 feet wide.
- A schist foundation at the predicted

location of the wall built by the Redmond's to form the south side of the widened gangway in the late 1840s.

- Footings for the south wall of the late 19th century greenhouse and the early 20th century hothouse frames.
- 19th century stoop and porch footings beside the north and south walls of the Trent House.

In spring of 2014, the Trent House Association was the grateful recipient of a generous though anonymous grant from a gracious donor. This grant is earmarked for the purpose of an archaeological site investigation and evaluation of the c.1742 kitchen and gangway of the Trent House. We are excited and delighted that the inimitable Ian Burrow of Hunter Research will again lead a team of both professional and volunteer workers to discover what tales the buried past can tell.

It is key to establish the integrity of the site fragments and foundation evidence that can be identified as from the 18th and 19th century. Perhaps more revealing might be the discovery of domestic and material artifacts that were lost or discarded by the range of residents spanning the Early Native American period to the Stokes family. It is, perhaps most important to consider the poignant circumstances of the early Trent House "servants" for whom the kitchen addition was constructed. It is almost certain that this workforce comprised enslaved African peoples. With luck, we might uncover material and cultural evidence that will illuminate their plight and lifestyles and tell the human story of the Trent House. The archaeological research will continue in the spring of 2015 with school and other groups invited to participate. For more information about becoming involved, please contact the Trent House office at trenthouseassociation@verizon.net or 609-989-0087.

Archaeology and Apple Day!

On October 4th, from 11:00 to 3:00, the public is invited to witness the actual work of an archaeology dig, and talk with the experts from Hunter Research on site. Plus celebrate harvest time at the 1719 William Trent House Museum with free apple cider and donuts, demonstrations of pressing apples for juice and applesauce making, apple crafts. Something for everyone!