

BANKENOTES

STRAWBERRY BANKE MUSEUM

ISSUE 1 2021

Letter from President and CEO

I RECENTLY CAME ACROSS AN ARTICLE from the American Alliance of Museums titled “Rising to the Challenge,” and couldn’t help but reflect on how Strawberry Banke Museum has done just that in the last year. The pandemic created enormous obstacles for all, including Strawberry Banke. Drawing inspiration from the stories of resiliency from the Puddle Dock neighborhood, the museum presses forward with reimagined programs and events, most recently Candlelight Stroll Under the Stars and outdoor ice skating at Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond.

Every year it truly takes a village to make seasonal outdoor ice skating at Strawberry Banke possible. This year, more so than ever, including implementing COVID-19 protocols and precautions. On countless days when out for a walk this winter, I’ve enjoyed watching the fruits of that labor, seeing skaters of all ages gather at a safe distance to enjoy outdoor recreation at Strawberry Banke. It was particularly heartening to witness the outpouring of support from the community in response to January’s “Keep Portsmouth Skating” fundraiser.

In a few short weeks, the rink will be gone and the museum will look ahead to a new season. Without a doubt, the continued effects of the pandemic will require us to reimagine programming for the coming year and I look forward to sharing future plans soon.

With a few weeks left until April and the approaching the end of fiscal year, I ask that you consider a gift to the Strawberry Banke Fund and the March Match challenge by the Board of Trustees. May the March Match meet its goal and help invest in the vision of Strawberry Banke as the museum rises to the challenges of the coming year.

Additionally, I invite you to gather virtually at the museum with the Board of Trustees and staff on March 25 at 7 PM for the first-ever March Match virtual event: “Behind the Curtain — Strawberry Banke Revealed.” Save the date to experience inspiring stories as Strawberry Banke reveals the work that went on behind the scenes in 2020 positioning the museum in 2021 and beyond. I look forward to seeing you there.



Lawrence J. Yerdon
President & CEO

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Thank You, NEFA



Strawbery Banke Museum featured special pop-up performances by Ice Dance International (IDI) at Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock

Pond in February, which were funded in part by the New England States Touring program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program and the six New England state arts agencies.

Spectators enjoyed the IDI pop-up performances world-wide through the Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond live stream webcam provided all season long by IPTimelapse.com.

Thanks for Helping to “Keep Portsmouth Skating”



Over the Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend, Rink Services Group (RSG) issued a challenge fundraiser, seeking to match all donations to the rink, dollar for dollar, up to \$5,000. Thanks to the generosity and support of the community, Strawberry Banke **exceeded the goal and raised \$13,773**, including matching funds from RSG, for Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond.

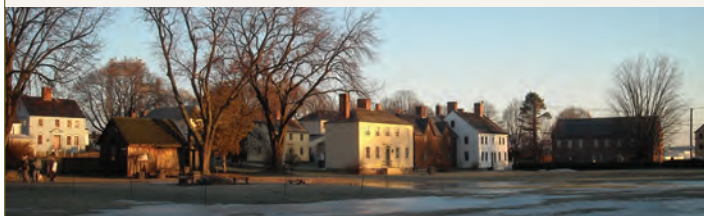
Behind the Curtain — Strawbery Banke Revealed

A VIRTUAL STRAWBERRY BANKE EVENT

Thursday, March 27, 2021, at 7 PM

Free and open to the public. Preregistration required. For more information and to register, visit strawberyanke.org.

Experience inspiring stories firsthand from trustees, staff, donors, volunteers, business partners, and the community as Strawberry Banke reveals the work that went on behind the scenes in 2020 to help position the museum in 2021 and beyond.



Join the Trustees for the Strawberry Banke Fund March Match Challenge

Allison Potter, Strawberry Banke Museum Trustee

As Strawberry Banke Museum reaches the end of the fiscal year, I find myself reflecting on the past year — and what a year it's been. The museum's strategic framework defines Strawberry Banke as “a place to learn, a place to gather and a place to preserve.” The circumstances surrounding the pandemic made this year look quite different at the museum. The school buses, a regular sight in the spring, were noticeably absent from the parking lot. Gathering as a community wasn't possible for the museum's signature events such as the 4th of July, Vintage & Vine, and Ghosts on the Banke.

However, the museum pressed forward thanks to the innovation of staff. Baby Animals: Heritage Breeds at the Banke, An American Celebration, and the Children's Book Festival moved to a virtual platform. The museum, under direction of the Education Department, implemented and enhanced online learning for homeschoolers and remote learners through virtual tours, programs, classes, and clubs on the museum's Virtual Classroom. The reimagined and COVID-safe version of Candlelight Stroll preserved the essence of the holiday tradition and the grounds were as beautiful as ever. And, of course, we've gathered as a community this winter to enjoy outdoor ice skating at Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond.

The tireless work and dedication of Strawberry Banke's staff has been nothing short of remarkable. The creativity and agility they've shown in reimagining the museum's events and programming in order to stay true to the museum's framework continues to be inspiring and regarded by the museum's Board of Trustees. That is why, in this last month of the fiscal year, my fellow Trustees and I have joined together with a \$25,000 Match Challenge fundraiser to help Strawberry Banke Museum meet its annual fund goal.

All gifts made between March 1 and March 31, 2021, are matched dollar for dollar (up to \$25,000 total) by the generosity of my fellow Trustees. The Board of Trustees recognizes that it is of particular importance in this moment to show our support for the Strawberry Banke perseverance and for the staff that dedicate themselves to the same. Recognizing that this has been a challenging year, the museum greatly appreciates gifts of any size toward the annual fund, which will help keep Strawberry Banke a place to learn, a place to gather, and a place to preserve. Thank you for supporting Strawberry Banke Museum.

SPRING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AT STRAWBERRY BANKE

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS & LECTURES

Join Strawberry Banke Museum staff as they share their passion and expertise on a variety of topics. Each virtual program is free and open to the public. Preregistration is required. Zoom has a capacity of 100 attendees for each event, and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Each virtual program will be recorded and sent in future member emails/e-newsletters or upon request.

- **Garden Planning and Design**, Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 6-7 PM
Envision and plan seasonal garden designs with Erik Wochholz, Curator of Historic Landscape. Learn how to incorporate heirloom seeds, soil science, pest management, and other techniques used in the museum's historical gardens and landscapes into designs at home.
- **17th-Century Sherburne House Archaeology**, Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 4-5 PM
Join Alexandra Martin, Museum Archaeologist, as she discusses the findings of the Archaeological Field School during the 2019 excavation at the c. 1695 Sherburne House. Learn how archaeological evidence of an 18th-century addition, including architectural artifacts and early colonial English artifacts, may contribute to a new furnishing plan for the house.



- **Caring for Your Possessions**, Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 12-1 PM
In this question-and-answer session, Rodney Rowland, Director of Special Projects and Facilities, shares objects from the museum's collection and discusses conservation treatments. Participants are encouraged to bring objects and ask questions about preserving, cleaning, and repairing furniture, metal objects, books, paper, and other items.

PROGRAMS FOR HOMESCHOOLERS AND REMOTE LEARNERS

NEW PRICING! The new homeschool program subscription plan allows homeschoolers to participate in all virtual and onsite programs through May 2021 for a set price. Included programs: History at Home, Pondering the Past, Virtual Homeschool Days, and Stories Alive! Cost: One child: Members \$40; Nonmembers \$50. Two children: Members \$60; Nonmembers \$75. Three+ children: Members \$80; Nonmembers \$100. To learn more and to register for these programs, visit strawberrybankemuseum.wordpress.com.

- **History at Home**
History at Home, geared toward students aged 8-14, are four-week online programs that help remote learners explore important moments in American history.
 - **Fighting for Freedom**, March 2-23, 2021
 - **Archaeology Adventure**, March 30 – April 20, 2021
 - **Immigration through the Ages**, May 4-25, 2021

■ Pondering the Past

Pondering the Past, geared toward students aged 11-14, are four-week online programs that help remote learners explore how historians gather information and develop interpretations about the past from multiple perspectives.

- **Rallying for Change**, March 2-23, 2021
- **History Underground**, March 30 – April 20, 2021
- **Coming to America**, May 4-25, 2021

■ Virtual Homeschool Days

Homeschool Days virtual programs take place the third Thursday of every month from 2:30 to 3 PM.

- **Cookstove Bake Along**, March 18, 2021
- **Archaeology Myth Busters!**, April 15, 2021
- **A Conversation with Mrs. Shapiro**, May 20, 2021

■ Stories Alive!

Strawberry Banke welcomes families back to the museum grounds for an outdoor, physically distanced Stories Alive! program. Each day is based on a historical fiction picture book that is brought to life with crafts, activities, and games based in history, science, and geography. Stories Alive! classes take place Thursday in May from 10 AM to 12 PM and follow all COVID-19 protocols.

- **How Ben Franklin Stole the Lightning**, May 6, 2021
- **The Boy Who Was Generous with Salt**, May 13, 2021
- **When Jesse Came Across the Sea**, May 20, 2021
- **Rocks in His Hand**, May 27, 2021

VIRTUAL CLUBS

■ Strawberry Banke American Girls Book Club

Get to know historical fiction characters from the American Girl Doll series with the Strawberry Banke American Girls Club. Designed for ages 6+, each session focuses on a different book character whose time period is tied to one of the historic homes at Strawberry Banke Museum. Members \$20; Nonmembers \$25. To learn more and to register, visit strawberrybankemuseum.wordpress.com.

- **Session II: Meet Samantha: An American Girl**
March 2 – April 13, 2021
- **Session III: Meet Molly: An American Girl**
April 27 – June 8, 2021



**SUMMER CAMP
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

Summer camp returns for onsite offerings for the summer of 2021. Register via StrawberryBanke.org/learn.cfm.



Thank You, Volunteers!

Archaeology: The Collections Department appreciates the efforts of the Archaeology Volunteers, who dedicated 195 total hours in 2020 continuing data entry, research, and editing throughout the year. Some volunteers were able to meet in person for physically distanced artifact washing and visitor interaction during the fall. The Collections Department also enjoyed periodic check-ins over Zoom with the volunteers. In 2020, thanks to volunteer efforts, the Collections Department was able to resubmit four revised articles for journal publication, finalize data entry for 41,300 previously cataloged Penhallow artifacts, and wash three boxes of Sherburne artifacts that were excavated during the 2019 field season.



Junior Roleplayers: From performing a virtual reading of the Declaration of Independence to greeting guests at Candlelight Stroll Under the Stars, in 2020 the Strawberry Banke Junior Roleplayers donated 767 hours of their time to the museum. These wonderful young volunteers have helped to keep the spirit of the Puddle Dock neighborhood alive during this difficult season. Strawberry Banke is grateful for their continued dedication to the museum.



Horticulture: Many thanks to the efforts of the Horticulture Volunteers, who supported the museum with over 332 hours of volunteer time in the last year. Volunteers assisted with the care and cultivation of the historical gardens, supported research, preserved and dried flowers, collected heirloom seeds for the seed bank, and created 25 unique wreath and swag designs for Candlelight Stroll Under the Stars.



Events: Despite a challenging year for events, the support of dedicated Event Volunteers has not wavered. With the help of 30 volunteers who donated over 80 hours of their time for the reimagined Candlelight Stroll Under the Stars event, Strawberry Banke Museum was able to provide a safe holiday experience for over 3,400 visitors. The continued success of each of the

museum's events is attributed to volunteers whose willingness to give their time and talents make a difference to the Strawberry Banke community. Their hard work is sincerely appreciated by all.

Facilities: Many thanks to Tom Hand and Peter "Gus" Gustafson for 245 hours of work rebuilding museum entrances, doors, and door surroundings to ensure that each was safe for use, including the entire Shapiro access ramp. Additionally, Strawberry Banke is grateful to Alan Calhoun for his many hours of work to make sure the Candlelight Stroll candle boxes were refurbished and ready for another season.



Matching-Fund Grants Support Penhallow House

Strawbery Banke received two generous matching-fund grants to support the preservation of the historic Penhallow House. A grant from New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) supports the preservation of the building's exterior, including foundation, chimney, roof, and exterior walls, windows, and doors. An Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) supports both the preservation of the interior of the building and the rehabilitation of underused spaces as apartment units as part of the Heritage House Program. One of these apartments will be used by a visiting scholar participating in a new humanist-in-residence program. The preservation project is due to launch in 2021.

In addition to preserving a rare circa-1750 saltbox structure in Portsmouth, this project enables the creation of a new exhibit featuring the life and experiences of former resident Kenneth Richardson, the first African American supervisor at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard who was also active in the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s. This exhibit will allow the museum to expand the diversity and inclusivity of the history it interprets for visitors. Penhallow will be the first house exhibit focused on the 20th-century Black experience at Strawberry Banke and in the city of Portsmouth.

Additional support for this project includes generous grants from the Cogswell Benevolent Trust, the Samuel P. Hunt Foundation, and the McNinch Foundation.

Strawbery Banke Museum is deeply grateful to the foundations that have generously supported the museum's mission this fiscal year:

- Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation
- Cogswell Benevolent Trust
- Georgia-Pacific Foundation
- Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery
- Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation
- MacDonald Family Foundation
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- New England Foundation for the Arts
- New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- New Hampshire Department of Education
- New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program
- New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
- Roger R. & Theresa S. Thompson Endowment Fund
- Windover Foundation

THANK YOU!

*Make a Plan for Giving —
Join the Puddle Dock Society!*

With a planned gift, make a significant and long lasting impact on Strawberry Banke Museum and the museum's



programs and services for years to come. Make a planned gift through a will or living trust, retirement account, life insurance policy, or a more sophisticated estate planning vehicle.

Those who make planned giving arrangements as a part of their legacy become members of the Museum's Puddle Dock Society and are recognized:

- In the annual Honor Roll of Donors
- With special event invitations
- With annual updates from Lawrence J. Yerdon, President and CEO

To learn more about supporting Strawberry Banke Museum with a planned gift, please contact Joe April, Director of Development at japril@sbmuseum.org or 603.422.7551

LEAVING A LEGACY

Charles A. DeGrandpre

Longtime supporter and former trustee, Charles A. DeGrandpre, has left a bequest of \$10,000 for Strawberry Banke Museum in his trust. Charlie was a preeminent trust and estate attorney, most recently serving as the senior director of the McLane Middleton Law Firm Portsmouth Office.

Charlie served as the Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees and was a Development Committee member. Additionally, Charlie was a charter member of the Puddle Dock Society, which was created by the Board of Trustees in 1998 to identify those individuals who have provided a planned gift to Strawberry Banke in their wills or estate plans. "Charlie liked to be involved in and promote planned giving," said his daughter Libby Giordano. "He deeply believed in philanthropy and giving and was generous in that sense."

"Charlie understood the significance and impact that a robust planned giving program has on an institution," said Lawrence J. Yerdon, President and CEO. "Strawbery Banke Museum is grateful for his support — a lifetime of giving and service. His recent bequest will continue his legacy of giving at the museum."

In addition to Strawberry Banke Museum, Charlie's involvement and philanthropy extended to several organizations in the greater Manchester and Portsmouth communities. He was the former Chair of the New Hampshire Bar Foundation, former Chair of the Lou and Lutza Smith Foundation, former Chair of the Board of the Trustees of Canterbury Shaker Village, a former director of the University of New Hampshire Foundations, and longtime board member for the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

IN MEMORIAM

DAVID R. STARBUCK New Hampshire historical archaeologist David R. Starbuck passed away on December 27, 2020. Dr. Starbuck was a noted author and a dedicated museum and historical archaeologist. He most recently worked with Enfield Shaker Museum, exploring the Boys' Shop and West Meadow Barn last summer. Dr. Starbuck was also a significant advocate for and supporter of Strawberry Banke Museum archaeology. In his definitive 2006 book, *The Archeology of New Hampshire: Exploring 10,000 Years in the Granite State*, he described Strawberry Banke as "one of the best urban archeological sites in America." He was also the long-time editor of the New Hampshire Archeological Society's journal, *The New Hampshire Archeologist*. The journal has published various articles and reports about the museum's many archaeological sites, including the results of the Chase House excavations in 2015.

Museum archaeologists are a small cohort within the specialized field of archaeology, especially in New England. Dr. Starbuck's death is a great loss for the Northeast and for New Hampshire in particular. Strawberry Banke will honor his legacy by continuing public and collaborative research, and recognizing our responsibility to preserve the historic record.

CHARLES E. BURDEN Charlie Burden, former Strawberry Banke Overseer (now National Council) and former Collections Committee member, died on December 26, 2020, in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. Dr. Burden was an avid collector of antiquities and directed that passion to help Strawberry Banke achieve its mission to teach and preserve history. He was instrumental in the research and development of the Abbott Grocery Store project from 1986 through its opening in 1993 as well as the Shapiro House project from 1996 through its opening in 1998. In addition to generous financial support, Dr. Burden donated over 1,000 objects to the Abbott Grocery Store and Shapiro House projects and ensured they accurately portrayed the exhibits' stories. The book about the Abbott Grocery Store, *Produce and Conserve, Share and Play Square: The Grocer and the Consumer on the Home Front Battlefield during World War II*, was dedicated to Charles E. Burden.

REVEREND DAVID GALEN JOHNSON Reverend David Johnson, Strawberry Banke Museum staff member and Unity Church of Christ minister, died on January 11, 2021. Reverend Johnson pursued several hobbies, including dedicating himself to community theatre, participating in a murder mystery troupe, and interpreting and roleplaying at Strawberry Banke Museum. Most recently he portrayed Captain Fishley at the historic Rider-Wood house and John Stavers at the historic William Pitt Tavern. Though he was at Strawberry Banke for only a short time, he will be remembered by the many staff and visitors who encountered him.





14 Hancock Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Visit strawberybanke.org
for updated schedules
and event details

FROM THE COLLECTION



In response to the rapidly expanding Industrial Revolution, and spurred by the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Americans at this time showed an interest in collecting 18th-century furniture, decorative arts, and even houses. In the case of this green silk dress, the Pierce sisters (of Portsmouth) took an 18th-century garment and reworked it according to their 19th-century sensibilities. The dress, originally sewn in Portsmouth in the style of the period between 1765 and 1770, was likely altered more than once, taking on its current form in the early 20th century. The gown and matching petticoat were created from dark-green silk brocade with a woven floral pattern in gold, cream, pink, mauve, and light and dark blues. The dress is in two pieces, including an underskirt with a plain brown cotton lining and an overdress with a fitted sleeved bodice and attached overskirt. The tasseled fringe was added to the original dress. The garment descended through the Peirce Family, who are longtime residents of the city.

The dress is pictured in the Chase House parlor chamber. Photo credit: Ellen McDermott



Thank You, Candlelight Stroll Under the Stars Sponsors

Many thanks to Candlelight Stroll Under the Stars sponsors Amica, Partners Bank, and Fidelity Investments UNIQUE College Investing Plan. Additional thanks to the 39 businesses and organizations that participated in the Sponsor-A-Tree program. The decorated trees can be viewed in the “2020 Candlelight Stroll Sponsored Trees” Facebook album.

PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID J. MURRAY, CLEAREYEPHOTO.COM