



THE CANNON

Newsletter of the
Jacobus Vanderveer House

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Nationally Recognized Museums Partner With the Jacobus Vanderveer House

Two nationally known museums, the Fraunces Tavern Museum in Lower Manhattan and the Newark Museum, have begun to lend furniture, paintings, and decorative arts to the Jacobus Vanderveer House as it works to complete its period rooms.

Fraunces Tavern Museum is a survivor of the early days of New York City. It was built in 1719 as an elegant residence for the merchant Stephan Delancey and in 1762 the home was purchased by tavern keeper Samuel Fraunces, who turned it into one of the most popular taverns of the day.

Later it became the site where General George Washington gave his farewell address to the officers of the Continental Army. Today the museum houses the world's largest collection of the paintings of John Ward Dunsmore, a late 19th /early 20th-century painter best known for his realistic and histor-

ically accurate paintings that illustrate important events of the Revolutionary War, including Valley Forge, the Battle of Bunker Hill and the Surrender at Yorktown.

Jessica Baldwin, Fraunces Tavern Museum director, said Dunsmore "placed a tremendous importance on realism and wanted his paintings to be as realistic as a photo."

Two years ago, the museum granted permission for Jacobus Vanderveer House to get on loan the famous Dunsmore portrait of General Henry Knox. Last year, according to Baldwin, Dunsmore's depiction of Knox bringing captured British cannons overland from Fort Ticonderoga to the Pluckemin Artillery Cantonment was at the house.

This year, The Friends of Jacobus Vanderveer House are excited to announce that Fraunces Tavern Museum will lend 12 Dunsmore works in time for Colonial *(Cont. on page 2.)*



Courtesy of Fraunces Tavern® Museum, New York City

PORTRAIT OF George Washington Without a Hat by John Ward Dunsmore will be on exhibit at Vanderveer House's Colonial Christmas Nov. 30 to Dec. 4. This is the first time the portrait will be exhibited to the public in more than 20 years.



Photo by Stephen Taylor

ELEGANT WREATHS, SWAGS, trees, mantelpiece greenery and other period Christmas decorations will delight visitors at the Jacobus Vanderveer House's annual Colonial Christmas show house and tour. There is an exhibit of Revolutionary War paintings, refreshments, caroling, colonial musicians, holiday boutiques, and for the kids visits with a Dutch Santa.

Mark Your Calendars! Colonial Christmas is Nov. 30 to Dec. 4

Colonial Christmas, the Jacobus Vanderveer House's signature event, takes place Wednesday, Nov. 30 through Sunday, Dec. 4 and features the show house and tours, a Friday night cocktail party for benefactors, and a midweek luncheon at Hamilton Farm Golf Club with the theme "Christmas In the Country: an Open House."

Friends of Jacobus Vanderveer House Trustee Nancy Weeks chairs the event this year. Former Trustee Jeanne Galbraith is honorary chair. Among the primary sponsors are Investors Bank and the Peapack-Gladstone Bank.

Along with the traditional boxwood swags and floral décor by noted designer David Mitchell of Still Life Event *(Cont. on page 2.)*

JVH Relationship with Two Museums Deepens

(Cont. from page 1.) Christmas, Dec. 1 to 4. Five of those works will go back to New York at the end of December, but seven of them will remain in the House until next October as part of an exhibition on American Revolutionary War paintings.

"This is a major exhibition," said Friends President Leslie Molé. "We are so lucky to be working with Fraunces Tavern Museum."

Baldwin said she, too, is extremely pleased that the two museums can collaborate, the same way her museum does with Mount Vernon, The Drumthwacket Foundation in Princeton, and the New York Historical Society.

Baldwin noted that Fraunces Tavern has started a project to conserve the Dunsmore paintings. She announced that JVH, Chubb Personal Insurance, and the James F. Hurley Insurance Agency in Bedminster have joined to restore a portrait of George Washington that Fraunces Tavern Museum is lending to JVH.

Another new museum relationship JVH is cultivating is with the Newark Museum, spirited by Newark's decorative arts curator, Ulysses Dietz. "He opened the doors of the museum's basement vaults and showed us its collection," said Molé. "We inquired about specific pieces and were given three on loan last year, a Queen Anne easy chair, a Queen Anne lowboy, and a Dutch spoon caddy." The loans of furniture have a renewable commitment, according to Molé.

This year, the Newark Museum is lending a Dutch kas (large chest), which will go in the back entrance hall, some federal furniture for the 1813 room, which is in the process of being furnished, and a set of four porcelains for the Vanderveer parlor, the principal 1772 room. >>>



SIDEBOARD has been lent to JVH by the Newark Museum.

Rooms Come Alive With Furniture

Furnishing of the rooms in Vanderveer House is well on its way to completion.

Visitors can see the progress made during Colonial Christmas and when the house is open once a month for free admission and volunteer docents interpret the colorful story of the Dutch Vanderveer family and the couple who occupied the house during the American Revolution, General Henry Knox and his wife Lucy.

Three rooms are completely furnished — the Vanderveer Parlor, the Knox Bedroom behind it, and now an additional room on the second floor over the Knox Bedroom called the "lumber room."

The latest room to be furnished is the equivalent of an "attic guestroom/storage room," according to LeeAnne Lan, first vice president of The Friends of Jacobus Vanderveer House.



It has a low post trundle bed and contains trunks, old wheelbarrows, and spinning wheels. "Every item in the room can be handled by visitors," said Lan. "We will have clothing in the trunks that kids can take out and look through when they come on tours."

Acquisition of serious furniture continues as well. Recently, The Friends of Jacobus Vanderveer House bought a museum worthy Chippendale side chair from well known antique dealer C. L. Prickett of Yardley, Pennsylvania.

Master cabinetmaker Harrison Higgins from Richmond, Virginia is reproducing seven chairs like it to fit around a breakfast table that holds the Knox tea set.

GUESS WHICH CHIPPENDALE chair is authentic? The Friends of Jacobus Vanderveer House recently bought this antique side chair and are having seven others reproduced to go around a breakfast table in the House.



Photo by Stephen Taylor

COLONIAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON takes place Wednesday Nov. 30 at Hamilton Farm Golf Club in Gladstone, where guests will learn how to throw a gorgeous holiday Open House by watching Pottery Barn designers.

Colonial Christmas Celebration is Nov. 30 - Dec. 4

(Cont. from page 1.) Design, Inc., period music, visits with a Dutch Santa, caroling, and boutiques to make Christmas shopping easy, there is a stunning exhibit of Revolutionary War paintings.

The house will be open for school and group tours Thursday, Dec. 1 and to the general public Friday through Sunday, Dec. 2 to 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Santa comes on Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. Colonial musicians perform Saturday from 11 to 1 p.m., and The Pingry School Balladeers sing Christmas carols at 3 p.m. Sunday.

Interior designer Susan Miniman and Valley Furniture in Watchung will style the rooms in the 1813 side of the house. Lady Ellen of Colony Farm Antiques in Chester will decorate the upstairs bedroom in the 18th century part of the house and bring in period costumes.

Entry is \$10, and tickets are purchased at the door. Children come in free. Log onto colonialchristmas.org to find out more information.

The festivities open Wednesday, Nov. 30 from 9 to 11 a.m. when the house conducts a private preview for luncheon guests. At Hamilton Farm Golf Club beginning at 10 a.m., Pottery Barn will bring its way-we-live-now style to the luncheon, where guests will learn how to put on a warm and inviting holiday Open House, set a buffet table, and prepare palate pleasing foods.

Celebrity chefs James Laird from Serenade Restaurant in Chatham and Anthony Bucco, Executive Chef at Hamilton Farm Golf Club, will demonstrate the recipes. Both are known for cuisines that feature local ingredients, sustainable agriculture, and bold, natural and honest flavors.

Pottery Barn style specialist Peg Lynch and her team will decorate an entire room at Hamilton Farm, from tablescapes and buffetscapes to Christmas trees. There will also be luxury boutiques.

The Friends of JVH will sell 100 keys to a spectacular treasure chest fundraiser where buyers will get a chance at DiModolo earrings, an Apple iPad, and other items from Gucci, Dior, and Judith Ripka.

Luncheon tickets are \$100 and \$150 for patrons. Leslie Molé, president of The Friends of Jacobus Vanderveer House, is co-chairing the luncheon with Marisa Marks of Madison. Investors Bank is the luncheon sponsor.

At the benefactor cocktail party Dec. 2, The Friends of JVH will unveil the Dutch Colonial kitchen and hearth exhibit. The group will also honor a longtime trustee from Oldwick, Paula Peterson Runnells, and her husband, John E. Runnells III, who donated the funds to complete the exhibit (see separate story in this issue).

There will be a unique fundraiser at the cocktail party. The Friends of Jacobus Vanderveer House will offer five spectacular Tiffany items hidden in 50 treasure chests. Cards to unlock the chests will be sold at a cost of \$100 each. Admission is \$100 and \$150 for patrons.

For luncheon and cocktail party reservations or group tours, please call the Friends of JVH at (908) 212-7000, ext. 611. >>>

JVH to Unveil Exciting Kitchen and Hearth Exhibit

History is not always about reproducing the past but interpreting it.

That is what the Jacobus Vanderveer House is doing with its kitchen. That part of the 1772 house was long destroyed by the time the residence was restored, so The Friends of JVH are showing through paint, furnishings, and decorative accessories what the room might have looked like at the time the Vanderveers occupied it.

The centerpiece of the new kitchen and hearth exhibit, to be unveiled at the Colonial Christmas cocktail party Dec. 2, is a trompe l'oeil depiction of what restoration architects believe was a 12-foot jambless fireplace on one wall of the room. A jambless fireplace, traditionally Dutch, has no sides like the brick side walls common to English fireplaces. It has just a fire back and a hood.

As envisioned by decorative painter Dan Mulligan of Chester, extremely realistic images of the hearth include pots, cooking utensils, a screen, even "charred" walls.

When first restoring the Vanderveer House, the Friends initially wanted to build a new fireplace but the state's Historic Preservation Office argued for simple drawings to show the outline of the hearth and how the family might have prepared food there.

The Friends thought they could achieve more with an interpretation, and a generous donation to undertake the project was made by a former trustee, Paula Peterson Runnells of Oldwick, and her husband, John E. Runnells III.

"For a long time we didn't do anything because we didn't know how we would achieve the look of an 18th century hearth without building an 18th century hearth," said Jeanne Galbraith of Mendham, an honorary trustee who has led the project.

Publication of a book called *Dutch Colonial Homes in America* changed that. It depicts dozens of hearths in 17th and 18th century Dutch houses across the Northeast. "This served as a guide to what these hearths would have looked like," said Galbraith. "As you leaf through the book, you see all the hearths look exactly the same. It was no longer a mystery what our hearth might have looked like."

Once the state approved the plans, Galbraith hired Mulligan and worked with the board's furnishings committee to acquire a doughbox table and a cupboard to hold pewter and other accessories that would have been in an 18th century kitchen. The room has been painted in soft mustard yellow, and ceilings are getting authentic-looking beams.

Galbraith worked closely with F&B Architectural Millwork, Inc. of Washington, which created the large mantel.

The new kitchen and hearth will be outfitted for the holidays during Colonial Christmas Dec. 1 to 4. Come visit! ><



NEWLY ACQUIRED CUPBOARD in the Vanderveer House kitchen displays cooking pieces of the 18th century, many of them found by a committee led by Honorary Trustee Jeanne Galbraith. Galbraith is spearheading the interpretation of the kitchen and hearth through extremely realistic painting. Brushstrokes will be unveiled Friday, Dec. 2 at the Colonial Christmas cocktail party.

We May Be Old and Historic, But We're Now on Facebook!

The Jacobus Vanderveer House and Museum may date to the 18th century, but its methods of communications with supporters and prospective visitors are strictly modern.

The house is on Facebook and Twitter, and so is General Henry Knox, who lived in the house for a brief time. Use social media and you will find events, pictures, current information, updates, and occasionally sporadic fun things about Knox and the Vanderveer House.

"Basically, we put information on Facebook to make quick announcements, spread the word quickly about items of interest, and make use of this modern communication phenomenon," said JVH Board Member Brooks Betz, who maintains all social media.

The intent, he continued, is to reach a different audience that makes less use of traditional information channels like print, newspapers, and websites.

"It's part of an overall communication plan to better inform and educate people who have interest in Revolutionary War history and the events sponsored and supported by The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House," said Betz.

Betz relayed a funny story that happened last summer when he visited General Knox's Museum home in Thomaston, Maine. As he announced to the docent he was from JVH, he received a cordial "very nice."

When she later asked Betz to tell her something interesting that he thought she didn't know about General Knox, Betz replied, "Did you know that I'm actually Henry Knox on Facebook?"

He reported that the docent's eyes lit up. "She thought that this was a great honor to meet Facebook's Henry Knox," he said with a laugh.

See <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Jacobus-Vanderveer-House-and-Museum-Pluckemin-Artillery-Encampment/81697402249> and <http://www.facebook.com/#!/generalknox> ><

3D Model Soon at JVH Revives Lost Pluckemin Artillery Park

The lost 1778-1779 winter cantonment of General Henry Knox's artillery that was located in Pluckemin may be "lost" no more.

Powerful computer programs such as Google Sketch-Up, Google Earth, ArcGIS, and GeoWeb3D are enabling archaeologists to create a 3D visualization of the cantonment site.

No special glasses will be necessary to view the exciting 3D exhibit, which will open at the Jacobus Vanderveer House in early 2012. Visitors will experience a "flyover simulation" of the area as well as a virtual walk-through of the cantonment buildings, structures, and surroundings as they were known back in 1779.

"This project provides the first ever representation of what is now proven to be America's first military training academy and the precursor to the Military Academy at West Point," noted JVH Board Member Brooks Betz, a project manager and internet strategy consultant who is managing the project.

"Virtualization allows us to demonstrate that this lost military installation was one of the most advanced and sophisticated cantonments made during the Revolutionary War."

While no buildings survive on the site, which is located on the hill above Jacobus Vanderveer House on the grounds of The Hills residential complex, Betz said significant archeological work and other historical records permit the "virtual" reconstruction of the buildings that made up the cantonment.

The 3D effort is being led by Professor Stewart Bruce at the Center for Environment & Society at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. The exhibit will have voice narration by Dr. John Seidel, the Pluckemin Cantonment's most prominent scholar and archeologist. Seidel was a lead archeologist during the effort called "the Pluckemin Dig" back in the early 1980s.

Partial funding for the Virtual Pluckemin Cantonment comes from the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission.

Learn more about the project at www.pluckeminartillery.com. ><



Photos courtesy of Robin Ray

CANDLEMAKING ACTIVITIES were part of a busy fall at Jacobus Vanderveer House. In October, Somerset County's Cultural and Heritage Commission's sixth annual Weekend Journey Through the Past drew large crowds. JVH was one of 22 historic buildings on the tour. And more than 100 people visited during Fall Fest in September. During Weekend Journey (photo above), re-enactors Lady Ellen (right) and Farmer Mark (center) demonstrate the colonial craft of candlemaking to visitor Barbara Subaka of Manville. At Fall Fest (photo below), a young admirer looks on as George Washington re-enactor B. David Emerson of Burlington shows how to wield a sword.



Donate to support mission of JVH

The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House work tirelessly not only to restore our historic house and hunt for authentic furnishings but to raise funds to support our mission.

That's where the public comes in! Any and all donations are delightedly accepted, and tax receipts are given. We invite our supporters to make donations in memory of a loved one, friend, or colleague. Please keep in mind that a memorial gift of historic preservation is a lasting gift. Checks should be made to:

The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House
and sent to: P. O. Box 723, Bedminster, NJ 07921-0723.
Please call (908) 212-7000, ext. 611 for more information. >>>

JVH SPECIAL EVENTS

We cordially request the honor of your presence at . . .

Colonial Christmas

Public Days:

Thursday (for school/group tours),
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday — Dec. 1, 2, 3, and 4
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Decorated rooms, tours by docents, visits with Santa, carolers, colonial musicians, boutiques for Christmas shopping, floral arrangements, and special Revolutionary War art exhibit.

\$10 admission, children under 12 free

Please go to our website, colonialchristmas.org, for more information.

Colonial Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, Nov. 30, Hamilton Farm Golf Club, Route 206 and Pottersville Road, Gladstone. Doors open at 10 a.m.

Our theme is the Christmas in the Country: An Open House.

Pottery Barn style specialist Peg Lynch will show how to create a Christmas Open House that will keep guests talking for months.

Two celebrity chefs, James Laird of Restaurant Serenade in Chatham and Hamilton Farm Executive Chef Anthony Bucco, will create the recipes on the buffet. Boutiques and holiday tabletop displays.

The Friends of JVH will sell 100 keys to a spectacular treasure chest fundraiser where buyers will get a chance at DiModolo earrings, an Apple iPad, and other items from Gucci, Dior, and Judith Ripka.

House open 9 to 11 a.m. for private preview for luncheon guests. Tickets \$100 and \$150. For tickets, call Friends of JVH at (908) 212-7000, ext. 611.

Cocktail Party given by The Friends of Jacobus Vanderveer House

Friday, Dec. 2, 6:30 p.m. at the House

The event will honor longtime JVH supporters Paula Peterson Runnells and her husband, John E Runnells III. Period music, all-Tiffany treasure chest fundraiser, and luxury vendors. Tickets \$100 and \$150.

For tickets, call Friends of JVH at (908) 212-7000, ext. 611.

The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House

PO Box 723 • Bedminster, NJ 07921 • (908) 212-7000, Ext. 611
www.jvanderveerhouse.com

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