President’s Message

On July 4th, Supreme Court Justice David Souter presided over the Naturalization Ceremony that has become a tradition at Strawbery Banke Museum’s “An American Celebration.” Two of our own – Finance Director Michael Walzak from Canada and Francis Broadbery, Irish-born husband of Kathleen Churchill (events director) became American citizens.

I was struck, in just a few hours, by these reminders that what we do here is about the people who live and work here in Portsmouth and have for nearly 400 years. And I was gratified on behalf of everyone involved in our mission that Justice Souter spent a good amount of time walking around the campus, taking a look at the gundalow being built down near Marcy Street, the 17th century Pike Company setting up on Puddle Dock and the buildings in various stages of restoration along Jefferson Street. When I said, at the start of the ceremony, that it is appropriate that Strawbery Banke should be the place to welcome new citizens as this spot has done for so many centuries, I was reminded, with the Supreme Court Justice’s presence that some of the ideas that made the nation started here, too.

That idea resonated when we partnered with the City to place a wreath on the Fitz-John Porter statue in Haven Park. Porter is the subject of our featured exhibit for 2011, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War. Our own Ichabod Goodwin, New Hampshire’s first Civil War Governor 1859-61, paid to outfit the first volunteer regiments from New Hampshire and they trained on the banks of South Mill Pond just a few blocks from here. The statue ceremony and the encampment on Puddle Dock were designed to remind us not just of events but of the people who made individual decisions to take part. Imagine what Portsmouth was like when 3,000 men of a total population of 10,000 went off to war. Strawbery Banke Museum takes quite seriously the responsibility of helping Portsmouth and New Hampshire remember.

Keep that idea in mind as you read this issue of BankeNotes, particularly the reports of interns in many summer programs here, and as you hear about initiatives like the Heritage House Program and the History Within Reach Program for schools. Strawbery Banke Museum is about keeping the individual stories of our collective memory alive in a manner that connects with present and future generations.

If it makes sense to you, as it does to Bill and Emily Hall (their Charitable Gift Annuity is described inside), to give something back to this slice of what makes the seacoast community who we are – through membership, donation, ticket purchases for signature events or just a visit – we are very happy to have your support. And even happier you embrace the job we’re trying to do.

Lawrence J. Yerdon, President
Introducing: Alexa Price  
by Kimberly Alexander, Ph. D., Senior Curator

Alexa Price joined the summer intern program at Strawbery Banke Museum as a curatorial intern and has now been selected to receive the Merrilee Possner Decorative and Folk Art Internship for 2011.

A junior at the University of New Hampshire, she studies 18th and 19th-century history and has a background in collections work. Alexa’s previous summer jobs and volunteer positions involved working with historical documents and object archives, both at UNH and the Exeter Historical Society. Currently, Alexa is assisting the curatorial and collections staff in preparing for next summer’s exhibit, “Thread: The Story of New England Fashion.”

In addition to working with collections, Alexa has experience in historical sewing and has designed and fabricated clothing for Revolutionary War reenactments, as well as other eras. This summer she has put her experience to work for Strawbery Banke, creating children’s Civil War clothing for our Discovery Center. Children visiting the Fitz John Porter exhibit can try on scaled-down versions of the Union Army uniform, including military-issue shirts, sack coats, and trousers. Canvas haversacks complete the outfits. For practicality, the coats and trousers are made from linen and canvas instead of wool, allowing children to imagine what it would have been like wearing even heavier coats in the summer.

In July Alexa made a brief presentation on clothing during the Salem State University intensive class hosted by Strawbery Banke on New England’s Contribution to the Civil War.

Alexa’s comments:

This particular dress is made from textured silk, but similar gowns with darted or gathered bodices could be made from cotton or calico prints, depending on one’s financial means. The less expensive cotton gowns would be what you might expect to see in a Civil War encampment, if a woman were following her husband in the army. Gathered bishop sleeves were more practical for working in camp; also, hoops were very impractical and would not be worn. The hoop had its dissenters, as working women would have known well. In one example from 1860, a mill owner put out a statement that, “It is always a pleasure for us to see our workpeople, and especially our comely young women, dressed NEAT and TIDY. [but] the present ugly fashion of HOOPS is almost impossible and highly dangerous. We now request all our Hands, at our Factory to leave HOOPS AND CRINOLINE at home.”
FOCUS ON ARCHAEOLOGY

Museum Field School 2011
by Sheila Charles, Museum Archaeologist

The 2011 Archaeology Field School was perhaps best summarized by participant Corrine Bon-giovanni who wrote, “I really enjoyed this dig and much appreciated how you consistently taught us about archaeology, what we were looking for, the local culture and how that would impact what we might find. Even though you’ve seen the material we uncovered many times in other places, you had the kindness to share in and support our excitement over small finds. You worked to make others knowledgeable and to have them share what they already knew. It was a most interesting and fun week. Please do keep me on your mailing list.”

Archaeology is an important part of Strawbery Banke Museum since the information and the estimated 700,000 pieces gathered from archaeological investigations are used to shape the museum’s collections and restored buildings. This past summer our annual archaeology field school completed a four-year excavation at the Chase House around the foundations of a former kitchen ell and a brick-lined privy pit.

Field school participant Rebecca Passannante kept a blog, “Dig Strawbery Banke” during the 2011 field school and these are some of her observations.

June 29th: “We continue to find broken bits of ceramics, glass, and animal bones. We have also located several pieces of buried metal, which might turn out to be some interesting artifacts once they are better exposed. Yesterday in the kitchen-ell unit Lauren, one of our field school participants, discovered a curved metal flower and I found more parts to two tea cups. Allen (another volunteer) has been putting artifact information into a computer database. Yesterday he reported that the Chase House excavations for 2008 and 2009 uncovered over 20,000 artifacts.

July 11th: “Last Friday was the wrap up day of the Chase House Excavation. Sheila reported that, over the past four years, she has been able to answer the questions she was looking for during the excavation. We were able to locate the privy and, although hindered by the water table, were able to dig quite extensively below the water table. We were also able to roughly outline the foundation of the barn where the privy was located. Now there are hundreds of artifacts that were uncovered over the past two weeks, waiting to be washed, cataloged, and examined.

July 18th: “Now that the excavations are closed at the Chase House, the Museum archaeologist and her volunteers are focusing on all of the artifacts that have been collected. Much of this work includes washing and drying the artifacts, separating them by material and style, assigning catalog numbers, and transferring those numbers onto reconstructable vessels and artifacts.”
The fabulous growing season of 2011 meant that our daily Garden Tours, especially during signature events were well-subscribed and fun to do for both the guides and the participants.

Those who choose not to take the guided garden tours are making our Listen to the Landscape Audio/Smartphone Tours ever more popular. Launched last summer this media-rich approach that takes the expected cellphone tour into new realms of discovery allows visitors -- and even interested people off-site with access to the Internet -- to take a walk though history as well as our landscapes. Images from our archives add historical perspective to the eras our seven different gardens represent, adding a new dimension to the descriptions of the gardens themselves. Continued thanks to the Piscataqua Garden Club for helping fund this innovative resource.

Some of the most popular family activities at the Museum are the kids’ crafts and other daily programs in the Victorian Children’s Garden. There’s nothing like making an herbarium to reconnect kids with nature. Of course the Landscapes staff and volunteers are making good use of those skills and plant materials in preparation for decorating for Candlelight Stroll.

Left: The Goodwin Gardens in full summer bloom.

Above: John Forti, Museum Curator of Historic Landscapes introduces some of the heirloom plants in the Sherburne House Garden to an attentive audience.

Strawberry Banke Museum Book Wins First Place from New England Museum Association

The 40-page, full-color book about our black cat “JD” directed to readers aged 4-8 was written and illustrated by Wickie Rowland. The book won its category of volumes with a wholesale price of $10 or less. NEMA received 206 entries from 64 organizations competing in 16 categories. Dan Yeager, President of NEMA said, “The judges were extremely impressed with the high quality of all of the entries and expressed pride to come from a region that produces such high caliber work.”
The Heritage House Program now underway at Strawbery Banke Museum is transforming ten underutilized historic spaces on the campus into revenue-producing rental properties. In need of maintenance and restorative work that had been deferred due to a lack of necessary funding, the Heritage Houses demonstrate a creative blend of the Museum’s assets: historic properties, an exceptional local and a supportive community willing to invest goodwill in the form of labor, materials and funds in the program. The Museum Trustees endorsed the plan for this reason as much as for the revenue opportunity.

The program has three inter-related objectives:

1. To restore the exteriors and protect the structure of these historic houses to their original period condition so that they can assume their rightful position as an integral part of the museum.

2. To provide attractive office and residential space for rent at this unique location in downtown Portsmouth. As a side benefit, the program will bring back the bustle of daily life that has existed on this site since earliest times.

3. To generate regular rental income that will be available to maintain the houses in good condition and generate a revenue surplus to support educational programs and other initiatives at the Museum.

Above: the Cotton Tenant House before and after restoration of the exterior. Follow the progress of the program on its own website: theheritagehouses.org

The Round Island Regatta in August raised both awareness and funds for the Heritage House Program. Thanks to Robin Normandeau at The Chandler’s Loft, Redhook Brewery, Sanders Lobster, Me & Ollie’s and Timberland volunteers and to Councillor Esther Kennedy who presented the awards.

For more information on the program, please contact: classen@strawberybanke.org

SBM WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEE

Strawbery Banke Museum welcomes Paul Barkworth as a member of the Board of Trustees. A professional accountant and Chief Financial Officer at Merchants Automotive Group of Hooksett, NH, Paul Barkworth brings extensive managerial, financial and Board service experience to his position. He was born in London, England, emigrated to the US in 1997 and became a US citizen. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and also served for many years as a Magistrate in the English criminal courts. He lives in East Hampstead, New Hampshire.
NEW EXHIBITS AND EXPANDED PROGRAMS

Continuing through Oct 31:
Fitz John Porter: Hero or Coward? Discover the Truth

Strawbery Banke Museum’s annual Community Day happened to fall the day after the 125th anniversary of the official Army pardon of Maj. Gen. Fitz John Porter and his 1886 reinstatement in the Army.

So on Saturday, August 6th the Museum hosted a wreath-laying ceremony at the Gen. Fitz John Porter equestrian statue in Haven Park. Portsmouth Mayor Tom Ferrini recalled the dedication ceremony conducted by Mayor Marvin in 1906, commemorating New Hampshire’s sacrifices on the battlefield and on the homefront during the Civil War. Echoing the 1906 ceremony, members of the Civil War Roundtable of NH, in costume assisted the Mayor in placing Porter’s own sword on the statue pedestal as “the symbol of an officer” and then placed the wreath. Porter’s sword was recently rediscovered by Strawbery Banke Museum curator Kimberly Alexander, purchased by Strawbery Banke Museum and returned to Portsmouth.

As always, Community Day brought the annual appearance of the R/E Max hot air balloon. This year, the balloon recalled another chapter in Porter’s life – when he risked sniper fire while conducting aerial surveillance from a balloon designed by another New Hampshire citizen, Thaddeus Lowe. The experience is depicted on the Porter monument and the field glasses he used are in the Museum’s exhibit, on loan from the Manassas Battleground National Park in Virginia. During the day, the Museum offered guided walking tours of “Porter’s Boyhood Portsmouth” and of “Civil War Portsmouth,” a tour created jointly by Strawbery Banke, the Portsmouth Athenaeum and the Portsmouth Historical Society and led by historians Richard Candee and Dick Adams.

The Encampment of the “2nd NH Volunteers” at Strawbery Banke on August 20-21, 2011.

Puddle Dock Shipyard at Strawbery Banke Museum

Visitors this season have watched as the new gundalow, the flagship for the next generation of river stewards, grows beneath its boat shed on Puddle Dock (right), where its sister, the Captain Edward H. Adams was built 30 years ago. The new gundalow will be certified to carry up to 49 passengers on educational river voyages. We are proud to partner with Gundalow Company as they bring this experience to life. For more details please visit www.gundalow.org
New Exhibit Opening May 1, 2012
THREAD: The Story of New England Fashion

by Kimberly Alexander, Ph.D. Senior Curator

Thread The Story of New England Fashion is an innovative collections-based exhibition project that will open May 1 and run through October 31, 2012. Thread will interpret three centuries of fashion with special attention to garments worn by those who lived in Portsmouth and at Puddle Dock such as the dress (pictured at right) that was worn by Sarah Parker Rice Goodwin, wife to the Governor, of our Governor Goodwin Mansion.

The exhibit draws fifty historical costumes from Strawbery Banke’s costume and textile collection and exhibits them with garments and accessories created by leading contemporary designers. Thread is expected to widen the Museum’s accessibility and open a dialogue on the art, social mores, technology and ideology of fashion as it has changed over the centuries.

The exhibition will be introduced in the Rowland Gallery, highlighting the process of preparation – dressing tables, mirrors, brushes, combs, men’s and women’s accessories – both historic and contemporary. Then as visitors explore the campus they will encounter vignettes of historical and contemporary pieces, covering the years 1760 to the present, displayed in eight of the Museum’s historic houses.

Sarah Beth Johnson is one of the contemporary young local designers creating contemporary pieces for the exhibit. In creating the designs pictured at right based on the Sarah Goodwin gown above, she said, “What I took from the original dress as my inspiration were patterns. I loved the combination of a tiny floral print with bold stripes. Pair that with a flirty, multi-layered ruffle skirt, and I had an idea for an 80’s-style party dress, with a nod to the nineteenth century. Lace details and a bold belt brought this design together for me. I love developing young, modern twists on fabulous trends from fashion history and find this Portsmouth dress intriguing.”
In the Spring issue of BankeNotes, Strawberry Banke Museum announced a partnership with the Planned Gift office of the NH Charitable Foundation that enables donors to establish Charitable Gift Annuities to benefit the museum. Strawberry Banke is pleased to announce the first gift made under this program: a significant contribution made by Bill and Emily Hall of New Castle, NH.

As the announcement explained, a Charitable Gift Annuity is a simple contract between a donor and the charity. In exchange for an irrevocable gift, the charity agrees to pay one or two annuitants a fixed sum each year for life. Payments are guaranteed by the general resources of charity, in this case, NH Charitable Foundation; when the donor’s estate is settled, the balance is directed to Strawberry Banke Museum. As the Halls noted, “Giving under this program provides a triple benefit: to the donor, the NH Charitable Foundation and the Banke.”

Bill Hall continued, “Among its several accomplishments, we feel that the Banke has proven to be a positive influence on the rehabilitation of the South End of Portsmouth and it reminds us of the important legacies left to us by those who came before. We appreciate the opportunity to assist the Banke with its worthwhile programs.” The Halls returned to New Castle recently after a twenty year absence and were pleased to see how much the Seacoast had changed, particularly Strawbery Banke Museum.

In the 1970s Bill had served as a Museum trustee, Emily had volunteered with the Strawbery Banke Guild for ten years and their daughter Barbara had served several years in the weaving room. They were also involved in the construction of the first gundalow on the grounds of Puddle Dock.

Thanking the Halls for their gift, president Lawrence J. Yerdon said, “It is a great pleasure and privilege to work with Emily and Bill. Their interest in history and many years of association with Strawberry Banke make them valuable partners for the museum. They were among the first to step forward with a gift to support the museum’s new school programs; and their generous gift inspired a number of additional donors and ensured that the program has been fully funded for the past three years. Thousands of children have benefited. The Hall’s charitable gift annuity is another example of their generosity. Their gift joins with others to secure the museum’s future. We are grateful to Emily and Bill for the many ways they support Strawberry Banke.”

“We wanted to re-engage ourselves in the Banke and wondered what role we could play,” said Bill. In discussions with Museum President Lawrence Yerdon, the Halls learned that one of the more pressing needs is the financing of the History Within Reach program that underwrites the cost of tuition and transportation so that school children from underserved schools and communities can experience the lessons Strawbery Banke has to share. “These groups have been a feature of the Strawbery Banke education program for several years; but after discussion we agreed to underwrite a more ambitious program with the aim of educating younger children about early American history. We’re history buffs and we think the lessons from the past are particularly useful today. This focus made sense because Portsmouth is known for its early influence on the nation.”

Last year the program served more than 1100 students and continues to be extremely popular and effective. “It’s a super program,” said Bill. “We understand through Larry that the kids really appreciate the opportunity and the experience. For us the benefit is a combination of the gift annuity arrangement and the desire to help the Banke. We believe in Strawberry Banke and this is one way to be useful.”

For more information on the charitable gift annuity program, please contact Betsy Jerram at 603.422.7508.
More than Role-Playing:  
My Internship at Strawbery Banke  
by Rachel Kaye

I worked for Strawbery Banke Museum as a summer intern with the Education Department. Without prior museum experience, I truly did not know what my work would entail. Was this the type of internship that would have me perform meaningless tasks, or would I be able to conduct legitimate work? I hoped for the latter; and as my first day at Strawbery Banke Museum drew to a close, I knew this would be a positive experience. I was given the same responsibilities as the full-time employees and was treated not as an intern but as a member of the staff. I was asked to make lesson plans, direct improvisation sessions and synthesize data.

I also worked closely with my supervisor, Sarah Batterson, to help run two different sessions of the Junior Role Players Camp. We taught campers for two weeks, gave lectures, and engaged them with interactive activities that later served as talking points for the campers when they were assigned to role-play for visitors at their characters’ houses.

While running these camps I not only taught, but also learned, about different time periods in American history; and as the sessions progressed, I felt increasingly like a valued member of Strawbery Banke Museum.

This internship not only served as a means of gaining on-site experience and boosting my resume, it also introduced me to new people and places. As part of the internship program we were given behind the scene tours of local museums, including the John Paul Jones House and the Discover Portsmouth Center. We were also introduced to museum professionals across the New England area and were privy to the stored collections of the Carter Collections Center.

Over the summer, the staff of Strawbery Banke was extremely accommodating and helpful, serving as mentors, colleagues, and friends. And through them I grew not only as a scholar, but also, as a person, and for that, I will always have fond memories.

Strawbery Banke Museum has recently received three grants for History Within Reach, an educational outreach initiative that provides tuition and transportation costs for underserved schools attending the Museum’s K-12 school programs:

- $5,000 from Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- $5,000 from People’s United Community Foundation
- $10,000 from Cogswell Benevolent Trust
# Community Partners

Grateful appreciation to those businesses and foundations that support the museum’s mission.

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Note: The list continues with the names of various companies and foundations that support the museum’s mission.
UPCOMING EVENTS

“BEFORE I DIE...” PROJECT
DAILY THROUGH OCTOBER 10, 2011
Strawbery Banke Museum and 3S Artspace bring the interactive community chalkboard dialogue to the first stop on its national tour after debuting in New Orleans post-Katrina. When the project is complete and all the comments are archived, it captures the collective consciousness of the Seacoast community at this moment in time.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2011, 5:30-9PM
PASSPORT-- CRAFT BEER & CULINARY TOUR
Strawbery Banke Museum and NH Public Television present an evening of delicious tastings at New Hampshire’s premiere craft beer and food pairing event at Strawbery Banke Museum! Sample a wide array of regional craft beers from Smuttynose Brewing Company, Moat Mountain, Allagash and Tuckerman brewers, paired with local culinary creations with an international flair. Your Passport world tour introduces you to leading ale and lager styles and meeting the brewers. Strawbery Banke Museum’s cooper will demonstrate the traditional craft of barrel making, and beer brewed in one of his barrels will be available for sampling.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2011, 10AM-5PM
NH FALL FESTIVAL & PRESCOTT PARK CHILI COOK-OFF: TWO INCREDIBLE FESTIVALS IN ONE!
Experience a traditional New England country fair complete with demonstrations from craftspeople, heritage breed and farm animal exhibits, special autumn activities in the Children’s Garden, presentations on heirloom seeds, canning and food preservation talks; fiber arts, demonstrations and exhibits on historic crafts and industries, cooperating, harvest-themed crafts in the Family Discovery Center, garden tours and live music. New for 2011: The Children’s Museum and Theatre of Portland, Maine will present their play, “Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie” during the event. And at Prescott Park, the annual Chili Cook-Off welcomes more than a dozen restaurants from the Seacoast and beyond, serving up their best chili. One ticket two great events.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 & 29, 2011
6-8PM
GHOSTS ON THE BANKE
A fun, family-friendly and not-too-spooky Halloween, especially for younger children. Trick or treat safely from house to historic house.
NEW THIS YEAR FOR MEMBERS ONLY: The first 100 Members who pre-register to bring a carved jack o’lantern will receive free admission. Be one of the first 100 Members to pre-register by OCTOBER 15th and receive free admission ticket(s) to Ghosts on the Banke. To pre-register e-mail: leadinterpreters@strawberybanke.org or call Sarah at 422-7545

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27 AND FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2011
10AM-2PM
CANDLELIGHT STROLL
Stroll through lantern-lit streets as the history of American holiday traditions from simpler times unfolds around you. A family experience that wraps the sights, smells and sounds of New England’s favorite season into your dreams. An anchor of the Vintage Christmas in Portsmouth celebration.
STRAWBERRY BANKE MUSEUM PRESENTS
NH HUMANITIES COUNCIL CIVIL WAR 150
LECTURE SERIES

Sep 25: Dr. Richard Schubart, Phillips Exeter Academy “Abraham Lincoln in New Hampshire.”
Oct 16, Professor J. William Harris, Department of History, University of New Hampshire, “Abraham Lincoln and His Generals”
Oct 23, Dr. Brent Glass, Elizabeth MacMillan Director of the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

All lectures take place at 2 pm in the Tyco Visitors Center. Free and open to the public. Light refreshments served.