

BANKENOTES

STRAWBERRY BANKE MUSEUM

ISSUE 4 2020

President's Letter

DEAR FRIENDS: of Strawberry Banke Museum, I wanted to take a moment to discuss the Covid-19 pandemic and how it relates to the museum as a business. As the Chair, along with the President and staff, I have to keep in mind the fiscal oversight with which the Board of Trustees is charged. The primary business of Strawberry Banke is delivering an extraordinary experience to you, our guest — whatever “extraordinary” means to you. You might love us for our educational experiences, or for our ability to take you back in time. Maybe you love to get together with your friends at one of our events, or to strap on skates in the winter. Perhaps you volunteer with our Archaeology department or in our gardens. Whatever brings you to Strawberry Banke, it is our primary charge when faced with challenging times to make sure we have the financial wherewithal to sustain the museum so we can deliver that experience to you, year after year.

When the Governor announced his Stay At Home orders, we had to take drastic steps to protect our staff and everyone we serve, and to ensure the survival of our beloved museum. In addition to the pandemic's impacts on employment, travel, health and business, it has had a tremendous impact on the non-profit world. Every organization we know and love in town has modified its schedule and programming. We are too. And we, too, are worried about the financial impact we'll experience over the coming months.

As the season turns to autumn, it feels strange to not be presenting the usual fall calendar of fall events at Strawberry Banke Museum. However, paying close attention to the guidance from City and New Hampshire health officials, and putting the safety of visitors and staff first, we had to make the difficult decision to cancel the 'live' versions of Vintage & Vine, PASSPORT, Ghosts on the Banke and NH Fall Festival. The Children's Book Festival moves online, offering a chance to buy books directly from a curated selection of local author and illustrator websites. The Museum remains hopeful that by December, fresh, outdoor winter air will allow for the reopening of Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond.

The biggest fundraiser, Vintage & Vine, takes a new online form supporting the Strawberry Banke Fund this year. Instead of the wine and food event supported by so many restaurants, chefs, and others now feeling the full effects of the pandemic, Vintage & Vine will be a collection of experiences to be enjoyed virtually now, or saved for a later date. Strawberry Banke's extraordinary collections and talented, imaginative staff make for an unrivaled combination. As Strawberry Banke continues to reinvent itself, there will be new initiatives designed to educate and entertain a range of audiences — and generate some badly-needed income.

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ONLINE LEARNING FALL RESOURCE GUIDE



Mindful of guidance from City and New Hampshire health officials, Strawberry Banke Museum moves its calendar of fall events online and plans new initiatives designed to educate and entertain audiences. See below for a sampling of virtual offerings for school-aged children. For more information and to register for these programs, visit <https://strawberybankemuseum.wordpress.com/history-at-home/>

History at Home — Programs for Homeschoolers and Remote Learners: History at Home virtual programs, geared towards students ages 8-14, are four-week online programs that help remote learners explore important moments in American history, using the Strawberry Banke Puddle Dock neighborhood as the backdrop. Each class begins with a PowerPoint presentation to introduce a particular era and provide context then offers hands-on activities. The special website available only to subscribers, provides additional readings, Internet resources and projects that supplement class discussions and themes. Members \$30; Non-members \$40.

Puddle Dock Packs — Colonial Life Pack: Puddle Dock Packs help kids exercise their imaginations, practice fine motor skills and explore the past through a variety of hands-on projects such as weaving potholders on a handheld loom, making marbles and ring-toss games, and writing with a quill pen. A subscribers-only webpage offers additional historical activities, book recommendations and access to videos of museum roleplayers and house tours to enhance learning. Members \$20; Non-members \$25.

Virtual Living History Club: Join like-minded teens to learn about what life was like in the past. Members meet bi-weekly via Zoom to try historical crafts, recipes, and activities, talk about history, learn research methods and connect with peers. Ages 12-17 or grades 6-12. Members \$30; Non-members \$40.



History within Reach Reimagined with TimeLooper Field Trips

Recently the Education Department and Visitor Services met with TimeLooper, a company that uses Virtual Reality/Artificial Reality technology to create immersive experiences for museums around the world. Now they are focused on helping museums produce virtual field trips by incorporating videos, 360-virtual reality, images and sounds/voice-overs into a 3-D map that students can access via their mobile devices. The Education Department is developing a pilot app, free of charge, that will allow users to explore various points on the Strawberry Banke campus including historic houses, exhibits, gardens and other sites and then "walk into" that house, room, site or exhibit to look at the museum collections up-close.

President's letter

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More online content, including at-home learning programs, video chats with the curator, archaeologist, horticulturist, educators, and preservationists will provide both dynamic programming to keep Strawberry Banke in the forefront of virtual museum offerings and some opportunities for revenue. The goal is to replace funds lost with the cancellation of fall events with donations to the Strawberry Banke Fund. I hope that you will find the new videos and webinars worthwhile, and worth a tax-deductible gift. For more information or to make a donation, visit StrawberyBanke.org

I thank you for your continued interest in and support of the museum. It is heartening to know that there is so much community support for Strawberry Banke.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence J. Yerdon
President & CEO



The painstaking work of removing the Sherburne House chimney that was built in the 1960s and had deteriorated beyond the point of repair. (Credit: David J. Murray/ClearEyePhoto.com)

Reinvigorating Sherburne House

The current interpretation of the Sherburne House dates back more than 40 years ago and focuses almost exclusively on the structural and garden history of the site. Strawberry Banke is planning to reinterpret the house to present a picture of the first members of the Sherburne Family to live here, along with their tenants and the enslaved Africans who lived and worked here. Preliminary investigations for this reinterpretation uncovered severe structural defects caused in part by groundwater flooding and the effects of sea-level rise. In order to stabilize Sherburne House, the 1960s reproduction chimney that was resting damagingly on the 17th-century timber frame was removed earlier this summer. The Sherburne House project is expected to take several years and additional resources.



RECENT GRANTS & GIFTS

Strawbery Banke is deeply grateful to the following for their support in the form of operating funds:

- Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery/NH Nonprofit Emergency Relief Fund Grant, COVID-19 relief
- National Endowment for the Arts CARES Act funding awarded via the NH State Council on the Arts, COVID-19 relief
- MacDonald Family Foundation/Bank of America
- New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Community Grant

Strawbery Banke names Veronica Lester Director of Marketing



Strawbery Banke Museum has announced the promotion of Veronica Lester from marketing assistant to director of marketing. Her predecessor, Stephanie Seacord, leaves to devote her full attention to her role as Public Information Officer for the city of Portsmouth. Since March and the pandemic shut-down, Lester has assumed responsibility for managing the museum's virtual presence, creating and promoting the virtual "Baby Animals: Heritage Breeds on the Banke" and "July 4 American Celebration" virtual events, sharing online learning, virtual tours and departmental programming, and maintaining communications with members, donors and friends of Strawberry Banke



To continue bridging the present with the past, please consider making a tax-deductible gift to help bridge the gap in these uncertain times.

The stories of those who lived and worked in the historic waterfront neighborhood of Puddle Dock are inspirational reminders for us to remain steadfast when challenged by the complicated issues and conflicts of 21st-century life.

The goal of the current Strawberry Banke Fund appeal is **to make up for the forecast \$200,000 seasonal loss due to the impact of the pandemic. Help bridge that gap and make sure the past remains in the memory of the present.**

For more information about the Strawberry Banke Fund and to make a tax-deductible gift, visit StrawberyBanke.org



VIRTUAL CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL!

Launches Saturday, November 14, 2020
Special member preview at 9 am

In partnership with Portsmouth Public Library and in celebration of **National Children's Book Week**

StrawberyBanke.org



14 Hancock Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801



*Membership keeps
the museum going!*

Join or renew today...
Makes a great gift!



Strawbery Banke & NH Theatre Project present
VIRTUAL Well-Behaved Women

WORKSHOP LAUNCHES OCTOBER 27

The virtual workshop explores historic topics involving women's suffrage and issues of voting today.

Made possible in part by Denise Poulon



Image: David J. Murray/ClearEyePhoto.com



VintageChristmasNH.org

Image: Ralph Morong

