

We welcome your comments about this issue of Banke Notes and encourage your ideas. Please contact us at 603-433-1100 or [info@strawberybanke.org](mailto:info@strawberybanke.org)



Strawbery Banke Museum, PO Box 300  
14 Hancock Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801

## Artifact of the Month

by Strawbery Banke Assistant Curator Amanda Breen

The Collections Department recently purchased the Wendell Family sea captain's liquor chest at the Annual Summer Auction at Northeast Auctions. The eighteenth century oak case is fitted with blown and cut glass decanters. The case was likely made in Holland and comes from the Jacob Wendell House on Pleasant Street in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. When the Wendell House was sold in the 1980s, its contents were dispersed and the museum received its large and important Wendell Collection of furniture, ceramics, glass, silver and paintings that now furnish the Stephen Chase House consistent with inventories taken in 1805 after the death of Stephen Chase as well as fifteen years later after the death of his wife, Mary Chase. This sea captain's liquor chest is a great addition to the Wendell Collection, and will also be exhibited in the Chase House. Correlating the collection and inventories provides visitors with an accurate representation of how these objects were used and insight into the lives of the Chase family.



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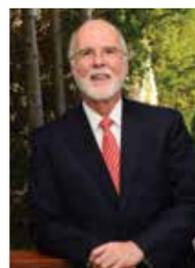
# STRAWBERY BANKE MUSEUM

# Banke Notes

SEPTEMBER 2015

## President's Message

Lawrence J. Yerdon, President & CEO



Autumn is one of our busiest seasons, as it is filled with special events celebrating fine wine and craft beer with restaurant selections to match, FOSE's Fairy House Tour (the world's largest), the traditional crafts and harvest fair exhibits of the NH Fall Festival and our family-friendly Halloween event.

As the campus and programming continues to expand, Strawbery Banke looks forward to the return of the Labrie Family Skate, hopefully as early as Thanksgiving weekend, to the return of the classic wooden Boatshop at Strawbery Banke and to the completion of beautiful new exhibition space (and apartment above) in the Thales Yeaton House. Read more about all of this in these pages.

The point is that Strawbery Banke grows ever more vibrant as the year-round living history destination that it is. The new slogan should be, "If you haven't visited Strawbery Banke since the 4th grade, you don't know what you're missing!"

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions at [lyerdon@strawberybanke.org](mailto:lyerdon@strawberybanke.org) or 603.433.1103 and thank you for your support.



## Strawbery Banke Museum hosts Vintage & Vine

Fine Wine & Food Festival and  
Silent Auction to Benefit Strawbery Banke Museum

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2015**

VIP Reserve Tasting, 4–7 pm (VIP tent 5–7 pm)

Grand Tasting & Wine Sale, 5–7 pm

45 local restaurants and chefs

4 Star Chefs grilling at center stage: Brandon Blethen, Robert's Maine Grill; Julie Cutting, Cure; Steve Harding, Garden Grille at Hilton Garden Inn; Patrick Redden, Poco's Bow Street Cantina

Silent Auction with over 100 amazing items!

FREE local transportation compliments of Regal Limousine.

VIP tickets \$120, 4–7 pm. Includes VIP tent and vintage wines retailing for \$100+ per bottle, plus main event. General Admission tickets \$65 per person, 5–7 pm. Designated driver tickets, \$15 (VIP \$25).

Must be 21 or older to attend. Group ticket block discounts available, call 603-422-7504.

Presented in partnership with the New Hampshire Liquor and Wine Outlets, Vintage & Vine 2015 offers guests an opportunity to sample an extensive selection of fine wines from around the world, hand-selected by New Hampshire wine brokers, along with imaginative cuisine prepared by top Seacoast-area chefs.

Vintage & Vine emphasizes local sourcing, local chefs and the best locally-available wines. Throughout the event, guests may order wines and receive a special event discount of 15 percent off any order of six or more bottles. Guests pay for the wine when they pick up their orders at any New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlet Store.

**THE VINTAGE & VINE AUCTION AND RAFFLE** features selections ranging from vacations and sporting events to jewelry, entertainment, a Cabot House leather chair and a one year parking pass for the Strawbery Banke lot. The Vintage & Vine Raffle offers the chance to win one of TWO towers of fine wines, a "house of cards" made of lottery tickets and a kayak donated by Portsmouth Kayak.



## Archaeology Field School explores Yeaton-Walsh property



This summer, Museum archaeologist Alix Martin welcomed 18 students to the 39th archaeological excavation field school. Students ranged in age and background from high school students contemplating an Anthropology Major, to recent college graduates, to a retired geology teacher. The focus was the Yeaton-Walsh House. The house lot was purchased by Thales G. Yeaton in 1794 as part of a larger, empty, L-shaped property. Yeaton split the lot, selling this portion to Joseph Smith in 1803, by which time this house had been built. The house had many owners over the decades, but documentary research determined that its longest residents were an Irish immigrant family, who lived there from the 1850s until the early 1900s, first as Leonard Cotton's tenants, and then as owners of the house. The house changed hands a few more times in the 20th century before the Portsmouth Housing Authority bought the house during Urban Renewal.

The house is now undergoing rehabilitation as a Heritage House Program initiative. In 2007 the museum's archaeological field school

conducted preliminary excavations around the property and this field season served as a larger-scale recovery effort to mitigate the disturbance of rehabilitation projects (i.e. repairing the deteriorating foundation and digging for new pipes and wiring).

Thousands of artifacts were recovered from a trench behind the house, dating to the time period during which Irish immigrants were residents. Processing the finds can help interpret what they were eating (based on animal bones), what they bought and used (which included ceramics, medicine bottles and personal effects like marbles, figurines and jewelry), and what updates were made to the household in its long history (based on architectural, electrical, and paint fragments).

The field school also uncovered deposits which pre-dated the house construction, dating to the mid- to late-18th century, when the property was used as a mast yard, owned by James Marden (the reason the neighboring alley is called Mast Lane). "The comparison of these commercially-related artifacts and features and the residential materials will help us to continue to learn about daily life at Puddle Dock over time," said Martin.



## Heritage House Program Update: Yeaton nears completion

Within the past two years the museum has received significant Heritage House Program contributions towards the restoration of the Thales Yeaton House and the Yeaton Walsh House. Work is nearing completion on the Thales-Yeaton House that will soon complement the adjoining Winn House (previously completed under Phase II of the HHP program) with a modern apartment on the second floor and the Montrone Family Exhibit Gallery on the first.



Smith Jr. Foundation and many other individual donors. Funding for the exterior preservation of the Thales Yeaton House came from the Historic Preservation Program of the NH Land & Community Heritage Investment Program.

The final un-restored building, Penhallow House, is on Washington Street. Its restoration will allow for the creation of two rental units plus an exhibition space replicating the office of Judge Penhallow, who was known

as an advocate and ally of those seeking manumission and is therefore an important African-American history site.

The Heritage House Program receives funding from donors, grants, and in-kind services and materials. Public Service Company of NH, Comcast and the City of Portsmouth have provided advice and direction helping Strawberry Banke to incorporate the 21st century utilities infrastructure in buildings and lanes that historically did not have these services.

Major funding for this project was provided by the Montrone Family Foundation and an anonymous regional foundation which has supported Strawberry Banke Museum's initiatives in the past. That foundation issued a \$200,000 challenge grant the museum was required to match in a year. The challenge was met three months early by key donors, including a \$58,000 gift from an anonymous charitable remainder unitrust, The McIninch Foundation, the Malcolm E.

## New Grants

Community Development Block Grant from the City of Portsmouth to build ADA accessibility ramps at Jefferson House.



LABRIE FAMILY SKATE  
AT PUDDLE DOCK POND  
STRAWBERRY BANKE MUSEUM

OPENING BY THANKSGIVING 2015

## Fall Events

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 & 27**  
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**11TH ANNUAL FAIRY HOUSE TOUR IN PORTSMOUTH**  
Strawberry Banke, Governor John Langdon House, Prescott Park and Peirce Island.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM**  
**NEW HAMPSHIRE FALL FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 5:30 – 7:30 PM**  
**HEARTH COOKING CLASS, AUTUMN FEAST**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
**CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR**  
Meet authors & illustrators. Free.

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30 & 31**  
6:00 – 8:00 PM

**GHOSTS ON THE BANKE**  
\$8 per person. Children 1 year or younger, free.



Piper Boatworks of Rye, New Hampshire has partnered with Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth to launch a pilot project to create The Boatshop at Strawberry Banke. Located on the grounds of the museum, The Boatshop will provide expanded maritime history-related exhibits and demonstrations, as well as workshops and programs focused on current maritime related topics and skills. The pilot project also marks the return of the boatshop experience at Strawberry Banke that visitors enjoyed in the 1970s.

"Strawberry Banke Museum interprets the 300+ year history of the people of Portsmouth, whose lives were intertwined with the river

and ocean, the boats that harbored here, and the economies that were derived from it," said Nate Piper, of Piper Boatworks. "The Boatshop at Strawberry Banke is an opportunity to reconnect to this region's rich maritime history and to provide resources for modern day sailors, boaters and maritime enthusiasts to gather and learn."

The first phase of The Boatshop at Strawberry Banke focuses on the expansion of one of the existing buildings to accommodate a new workshop and demonstration space. Businesses and individuals passionate about growing this aspect of the Museum's visitor experience are invited to contact Jeff Morris in the Strawberry Banke Development Office to learn more about underwriting these efforts.

The Boatshop at Strawberry Banke expects to offer a series of programs this fall on modern maritime topics and skills. Volunteers interested in assisting with maritime-related exhibit set-up, on-site demonstrations and construction of the new Boatshop building can contact Nate Piper at boatshop@strawberrybanke.org.