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SOCIAL MEDIA MOMENTS



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A westerly view of the colleges in Cambridge New England engraved by Sidney L. Smith for the Club of Odd Volumes from the original print Massachusetts Historical Society collection.

Study in Sedition

Christopher Gore, Harvard, and the American Revolution

By Thom Roach, Director of Interpretation

“There is no Place where we receive a greater Variety of Impressions, than at Colleges. Nor do any Instructions sink so deep in the Mind than those that are there received.”

— William Livingston and William Smith, Jr., in the *Independent Reflector*, 23 March 1753

“If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.” — Cicero

Next time you visit the Mansion at Gore Place, make your way to the Library and look at the books on the bottom three shelves of the bookcase. These are just a few of the thousands of books Christopher Gore collected in his lifetime. Among them are the works of the classical writers Cicero, Demosthenes, and Livy. There are fourteen volumes of the works of Cicero in Latin with another fourteen in translation; six volumes of Livy’s history of Rome; and a book entitled *All of the Orations of Demosthenes, Pronounced to Excite the Athenians Against Philip King of Macedon*.

Christopher Gore, “Kit” to his family and friends, was born in Boston in 1758. The eighth child and third son of John Gore—decorative painter, merchant, and Captain of the Militia—and Frances Pinkney Gore, Christopher Gore grew up in a city divided, a division that would grow throughout his formative years and result in revolution, sending his father into exile and his brother into war.

“The purpose of education is to free the student from the tyranny of the present.”
— Cicero

Study in Sedition is continued on page 4



GORE PLACE

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Letter from Our Board President

Dear Friends of Gore Place,

History seems to be ruling the day. This year, Massachusetts celebrated “the shot heard round the world” and next year the entire county will celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence, 250 years ago.

Recently I visited the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia and was struck by the complexity of the times and the course of history during the late 1770s and 1780s. The inevitability of a new government and country emerging from the upheaval of those times was far from assured. And the fragility of democracy becomes clearer when we look closely at the early days of the new American government and nation.

Gore’s time was marked by a highly charged political environment. Parallels exist to today with friends and family dissociating from one another because of an inability to see the world from the other’s perspective. Like in Gore’s time, we cannot predict which political and social changes will endure or what the consequences will be. Will our better angels prevail?

Political leaders in Gore’s time were highly educated and often profound thinkers. Serving the public through political office was greatly valued, and the demands were vigorous. Christopher Gore held several government posts and was twice appointed by George Washington to significant positions. Gore Place was built with a plan that it would be a place where many types of visitors—political, business, family, and friends—would come to enjoy the company of society, the beauty of the Mansion, and the rolling fields down to the Charles River, and, no doubt, to debate serious political issues.

Today, Gore Place welcomes people from all walks of life, political persuasions, backgrounds, and interests. The beauty of the grounds, the elegance of the Mansion and the Collection, and the down-to-earth qualities of the Farm and animals offer us a chance to savor nature and find a bit of peace. Now more than ever, many of us feel we need Gore Place for its spirit of serenity and opportunities for learning and cultural engagement.

Come for a bit of peace and experience one of our many events offered throughout the fall and winter. Learn more at goreplace.org. And, if you haven’t done so already, please consider a membership and a donation, knowing you will be supporting the beautiful Mansion, Grounds, and Farm (including care for our sheep, goats and chickens), and all the wonderful things we do here at Gore Place!

Debbie Dobbins

Debbie Dobbins
President of the Board



DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

HANDMADE FOR THE HOLIDAYS CRAFT FAIR
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE TENT & CARRIAGE HOUSE

A DECEMBER EVENING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE MANSION

TO LEARN MORE AND SEE WHAT ELSE WE HAVE PLANNED
VISIT: GOREPLACE.ORG/WHATS-ON

Gay Reddig Mayl Bequest

Earlier this year, we learned that Gay Reddig Mayl, a long-time member of Gore Place, had included us in her trust, leaving \$2,000,000 to the Gore Place endowment.

Her will states that this gift is because of "happy memories of a visit in the 1960s." Mrs. Mayl visited Gore Place with her mother when she was in her 20s. A few years later she became a lifetime member. We stayed in contact with her and over the years, she donated to our Annual Fund as well as to capital campaigns. Although we knew Mrs. Mayl thought fondly of Gore Place, we were amazed by the generosity of her bequest.

Gay Reddig Mayl was originally from Gates Mills, a Cleveland suburb. After graduating from Sweet Briar College and Georgetown Law School, she returned to Ohio and worked for White Consolidated Industries. Together with her husband, Jack Mayl, she traveled the world and approached life with curiosity and humor.

This gift highlights how breathtaking Gore Place is and how visiting a wonderful place can change a person's life. Gay Reddig Mayl's bequest will help Gore Place grow and blossom, and we will never forget how much she has helped us.



Gayl Reddig Mayl, Class of 1955

Courtesy of Sweet Briar College Alumnae Relations



Gavin Kleespies
Executive Director

Letter from the Executive Director

The collections of Gore Place are a remarkable resource, and the more I learn the more fascinated I am. We recently accepted a donation of a drop-leaf table that is attributed to Thomas Seymour and was in the Hancock House in Boston. The Hancock House was at one time considered the finest house in Massachusetts. Despite multiple attempts to donate the mansion to Massachusetts and save the house as a museum of the American Revolution, the Commonwealth was never able to agree on how to preserve it; the land under the building was sold in 1863 and the structure was razed. The fact that a home that had entertained George Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette, and many Founding Fathers was demolished left the city of Boston shocked. It set off a frenzy of collecting items from the Hancock House, including furnishings and architectural details. It is also considered by many as the spark that started the movement for historic preservation in Boston and then across the country.

The table we were recently given was made in the early 19th century, so it would not have been in the house while John Hancock, the signer of the Declaration of Independence, lived in the house, since he died in 1793. However, it was likely in the Hancock House while Christopher and Rebecca Gore lived on Beacon Hill. Coming to Gore Place, the table is reunited with a set of chairs that surround the table in the Peacock Parlor that were also in the Hancock House and were also donated by the same descendent family a number of years ago.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gavin".



Hancock House, Boston

STUDY IN SEDITION cont. Unlike his older brothers John and Samuel, both of whom attended a Writing School in preparation for a career in business, young Christopher attended the South Grammar and North Grammar School, where the works of the renowned authors of classical Greece and Rome were taught in their original languages. Gore then crossed the Charles River to enter Harvard at the age of fourteen, the average age for freshman at that time.

Christopher Gore was elected to the Speaking Club in his sophomore year. Samuel Phillips (founder of Phillips Academy) had formed the club a few years before, around the same time that Fisher Ames and others had formed the Mercurian Club. The two clubs merged in 1773 under the name the Speaking Club. The Speaking Club became a training ground for future political leaders.¹

Speeches given at the club were concerned with the overthrow of tyranny and the struggle to form an independent state. Among the ancient writers quoted were Cicero, Tacitus, Livy, Plutarch, and Demosthenes. Although Gore's speeches focused more on science than politics, from the Harvard library he checked out such books as Adam Ferguson's *An Essay on the History of Civil Society* and Voltaire's *The General History and State of Europe*. Both books address the natural right of the citizenry to oppose tyranny.²

"... but it was the classics that made Harvard men of that day effective in politics and statesmanship. In Plutarch's Lives, the orations of Cicero and Demosthenes, and ancient history, young men saw a mirror of their times..." — Samuel Eliot Morison

By October 1775, Cambridge had become the seat of rebellion with 1600 Provincial troops housed in Harvard's five buildings alone. With thousands of soldiers encamped in Cambridge, the school and its students were relocated to Concord. Classes were suspended for the last semester of 1776.

Gore graduated from Harvard that year, but there would be no commencement for him or his classmates. Gore's diploma arrived unceremoniously by mail.

Though cut short, Gore's time at Harvard had been formative. Steeped in the classics and raised on notions of liberty, democracy, and freedom from tyranny as espoused by authors of antiquity and the philosophers of the Enlightenment, Gore's generation was raised to question which rights were afforded by the state and which were God given.

We shouldn't conclude that Christopher Gore was radicalized by his time at Harvard, or by his association with the Patriots of his day like his brother Samuel or brother-in-law Thomas Crafts Jr. Politically, Gore described himself as an "unreconstructed Federalist," conservative and suspicious of those who espoused republicanism and democracy. In 1794, writing as "Manlius" in Boston's *Columbian Centinel*, he called Republicans "sons of anarchy."³

At seventeen, Christopher Gore was forced to choose between family and country. Like poor Horatia, as depicted in Jacques-Louis David's *The Oath of the Horatii*, young Christopher knew that, in the coming crisis, his loved ones would pay a price, whatever the outcome. He chose to stay.

Following graduation, Christopher joined the war effort, serving under his brother-in-law, Thomas Crafts, Jr., who was Colonel of the Massachusetts Regiment of Artillery. Like Christopher's father and brother Samuel, Crafts trained as a decorative painter and may have been an apprentice to John Gore Sr. (Crafts married John's oldest daughter Frances in 1763.) Christopher Gore attained the rank of "Lieutenant of the Fireworkers," preparing the payroll and writing the Colonel's letters and reports."⁴

After serving for two years, Christopher Gore set his sights on a career in the law, clerking for Judge John Lowell. After less than two years working for Lowell, Gore was ready to open a practice of his own. With so many Tory lawyers in exile, there was plenty of work for young lawyers to do. So much so that Gore could report to a friend, "C. G. has done more business than he had reason to expect. He has maintained himself very comfortably."⁵

"Things turn out best for the people who make the best out of the way things turn out."— Livy

In the years following the war, the American economy went into decline. The former colonies and the Continental Congress had funded much of the war effort by issuing scrip (promissory notes offering a full return plus interest for holding them to maturity.) By the end of the war, merchants and soldiers held most of this scrip. But necessity often demanded they trade the immature notes at a deep discount, and notes would trade at different values in different states. One could profit by buying low in one state and selling high in another. Christopher Gore partnered with Andrew Craige, the former Apothecary General of the Continental Army, to trade in Continental scrip. By the 1790s, Gore had made a fortune through his currency speculation.

Aligning himself with the Patriots would serve him well in the future. In the years that followed his time at Harvard, he served in the Massachusetts Senate (1788), was appointed the first United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts (1789 to 1796), served on the Maritime Commission in London (1796 to 1804), was elected governor of the Commonwealth (1809 to 1810), and was appointed a U.S. Senator (1813 to 1816).

Throughout his life, Gore maintained close ties to his alma mater. Christopher Gore left the bulk of his estate to Harvard—nearly \$100,000. It was the largest single bequest the college had received. The college used the money to build its first freestanding library: Gore Hall. Though replaced by the Widener Library in 1913, the image of Gore Hall is still part of the official Seal of the City of Cambridge.

"Shared danger is the strongest of bonds; it will keep men united in spite of mutual dislike and suspicion." — Livy

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STUDY IN SEDITION cont.

The 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is less than a year away. It will be celebrated with parades, speeches, fireworks, and special events throughout the year. But let's remember what Gore's world was like in the years prior to 1776. In 1770, Christopher Gore's brother Sam was wounded during a protest. His oldest brother John died suddenly the following year. Four years later, war broke out sending their father into exile.

Despite the turmoil his family experienced in the 1770s, Gore managed to stay the course, complete his education, serve the cause, establish himself in his community, and leave a legacy for the future.

ENDNOTES:

- 1, 2, 4. Helen R. Pinckney, *Christopher Gore, Federalist of Massachusetts, 1758-1827*, (Gore Place Society, Waltham, Massachusetts) 1969.d.
3. *Manlius Number 1*, Columbian Centinel, Boston, Mass., September 3, 1794
5. *Letter from Christopher Gore to Daniel Newcomb, Boston 16th Feb, 1780*, Boston Public Library Ch.D.8.13.

OTHER SOURCES:

Louis Leonard Tucker, *Centers of Sedition: Colonial Colleges and the American Revolution*, *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Third Series, Vol. 91 (1979)*, pp. 16-34

J.L. Bell, *Growing Up in the Gore Family*, lecture presented at Gore Place, 2025

In the Line of Fire

Before there was the Boston Massacre, there was the killing of Christopher Seider by customs officer Ebenezer Richardson on February 22, 1770. Richardson also wounded Christopher Gore's brother Samuel, then 19 years old. "Sammy," as he was called, was later involved in liberating four bronze cannon from the Militia's armory. The cannon were taken to Concord for safekeeping and used by the Continental Army throughout the war.

The Loyal Opposition

In the years when Christopher Gore attended Harvard, most of the students favored the Patriot cause, with some notable exceptions. Among the students believed to have been Loyalists—called Tories by the Patriots—were John Lindel Borland, William Chandler, Thomas Ashton Coffin, George Inman, Samuel Murray, Johnathan Simpson, and Miles Whitworth (class of 1772); Benjamin Lovell, Brendley Sylvester Oliver, and James Putnam, Jr., (class of 1774); and Samuel Gay and Levi Willard (class of 1775).¹ As the outbreak of open rebellion approached, fewer and fewer students identified with the Loyalist cause.

Although he was sympathetic to many of the complaints held by those opposing controversial actions by the British government, with a large family and a growing business, Christopher Gore's father, John Gore Sr., had an interest in maintaining the status quo. As a Loyalist, John Gore Sr. would spend nearly a decade in exile in London, England, leaving behind his wife, his seven daughters, and sons Samuel and Christopher.

¹ R. S. Thomas, *A List of Graduates of Harvard who were Tories in the American Revolution, Residing in Massachusetts* (The William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine, Vol. 7, No. 2) October, 1898.

CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAY PARTIES!

We're updating our Children's Birthday Parties with new themes and seasonal fun! We'll still offer our popular Build-A-Plane and Tea Parties, but we're getting ready for autumn and winter with new indoor games and cozy crafts. Please check the website in the near future for updated birthday offerings in the Carriage House. We'll make your child's celebration a day to remember!



goreplace.org/rentals/birthday-parties

MAKE YOUR EVENT A HISTORIC ONE AT GORE PLACE!



Our beautiful grounds and venue spaces are available year-round for your next private event. We have experience hosting a range of events, including:

- Weddings
 - Anniversaries
 - Vow Renewals
 - Bridal and Baby Showers
 - Corporate Meetings and Picnics
 - Bar and Bat Mitzvah Celebrations
- And many other occasions!*



Dining in Style

Bringing a new table into the Mansion was a good reason to rediscover some of the other tables in the house.

The large dining table in the Peacock Parlor was made in Philadelphia in 1810 and was owned by the Custis family of Virginia. While the table has no connection to the Gores, it is connected to Martha Dandridge Custis Washington, who was the first First Lady of the United States.

In the Breakfast Room, we have two mahogany tilt-top pedestal dining tables with turned pillars and downward curved and reeded legs that are pushed together to form one oval table. It was made in Boston between 1815 and 1820 and given to Gore Place by a descendant of Hanna Gore (1776-1851), daughter of Jeremiah Gore, a cousin of Christopher Gore.

In the Withdrawing Room, we have a table that is made up of three parts: dropleaf table that can be opened and to two half-oval side tables. The three pieces can be assembled to create an oblong table that would seat 10-12 people. This table came from the Weld Farm in Roxbury and is said to have belonged to Samuel Gore (1750-1831), Christopher Gore's brother. (See accompanying images.)

In the East Entryway, under the cantilevered staircase, is a c.1822 extension dining table that was owned by Christopher and Rebecca Gore. It may have been used by the Gores in their townhouse in Boston and then descended within the Gore family. When fully extended and with its three extra leaves, it can seat up to 18 people.



The Samuel Gore Table in three different configurations

Leave a Lasting Legacy

Planned giving, also known as legacy giving, allows you to make a significant charitable contribution while still meeting your personal and financial goals.

Planned gifts are an invaluable way to ensure Gore Place continues its mission of preserving the historic estate and farm for future generations. These gifts can come in many forms, including a bequest in your will or trust, naming Gore Place as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or life insurance policy, or a gift of appreciated stock.

This type of giving is mutually beneficial. Donors can make a larger gift than they may have thought possible, often with favorable tax implications. For Gore Place, legacy gifts provide a stable foundation, safeguarding the estate's future and supporting our ongoing programs and preservation efforts for years to come.

Interested in learning more about the Christopher and Rebecca Gore Legacy Society? Contact Rebecca Deans-Rowe, Director of Development: rdeansrowe@goreplace.org 781-894-2798, ext. 24

Spring Into Summer at Gore Place



Chris & Donna Knollmeyer



Emily Grisct, Drew Chin, and Rachel Kase



Nancy Place and Brenton Simons



Julia Hibbard, Annie Harter, Carole Gunst, Whitney Reimann, Wendy Oleksiak, Norah Lawrence, Avery Russell, Mallory McArdle, and Ainsleigh Caldicott



Flip Mason and Peter Gates

Other Recent Events



New children's programs this summer: Bubbles at the Barnyard and Puppet Show Picnic



Our Farm to Table dinner at Gore Place with cocktails in the Threshing Barn and a dinner on the North Lawn at sunset.



SAVE THE DATE A December Evening at Gore Place

on

December 11, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.
at 52 Gore St, Waltham, MA 02453

TO LEARN MORE AND GET
TICKETS SCAN THIS QR CODE:



goreplace.org/whats-on/a-december-evening

INTERESTED IN BECOMING
A SPONSOR FOR THIS
EVENT? CONTACT US AT
THE LINK ABOVE!

A Summer Internship at Gore Place

Ronan Lasiewski was our Waltham Partnership for Youth Cultural Resource Intern from early July to early August 2025. Ronan is a senior at Waltham High School and is passionate about history, science, math, and art.

During her summer internship, Ronan selected objects from the Gore Place collection and conducted research in order to create and present a public tour about childhood in the 19th century.

Ronan made connections between the objects and chose where in the Mansion to display each of them. Some of her favorite objects from her tour include a porcelain doll, a rocking horse, and examples of needlework and embroidery. She loved learning about historic toys and late eighteenth and early nineteenth century childhood experiences and reflecting on how the experiences of a child in that time compare with her own.

Ronan enjoyed the opportunity to apply her classroom knowledge to a professional setting. Through this experience, she has improved in skills such as public speaking and research.

Part of her internship included meeting with Gore Place staff members to learn about their role in the organization. This helped her connect with the staff and learn about their educational and workplace experiences. She believes this experience will help inform her college decisions.

While interning at Gore Place, Ronan also helped with presenting programs and planning events.

Ronan is grateful for the opportunity she had to take part in our Jane Austen Garden Party, to explore the Gore Place collection space, to give her tour, and especially to help care for the baby chicks at our farm.

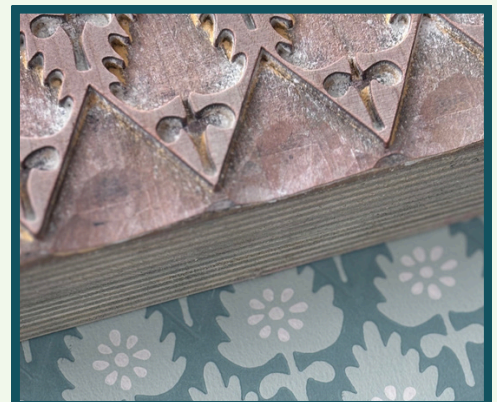


NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR FLOCK!

A new type of bird has joined the flock at Gore Place: ducks! Come visit this talkative trio down on our Farm. If they're not in their pool, look for them hanging out with the chickens.

Wallpaper Tour

Blockprinted wallpaper from the early 19th Century took great artistry, precision, and skill. Handcarved blocks weighed as much as 30-40 lbs so printers also needed to be quite strong. Each layer of color required a new block and the design was aligned on the rag-based paper using corner "pitch" pins. For every new color, the paper needed to be hung and dried before adding another. It is likely that all of the earliest wallpapers at Gore Place were created using this laborious technique and in an upcoming tour, we will focus on the origins and reproduction of our vibrant wall coverings.



Detail of hand-carved block and reproduced "Gore Place Sprig" wallpaper courtesy of Adelphi Paper Hangings, LLC