



GORE PLACE

THE AGRARIAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF GORE PLACE | FALL 2017 | ISSUE NUMBER 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Research— Even the Smallest Detail is Important

Letter from our Board President

News from the Development Office

Landscape Master Planning

Noteworthy

Upcoming Programs



Guide Miriam Boucher (center, in costume) leads visitors on a tour of Mr. Gore's office, with the special eBay chair by the secretary on the left.

Research—Even the Smallest Detail Is Important!

Details are essential in telling the story of the Gores. Our staff is continually searching through archival material and studying our historic buildings to uncover details about life in the Gore era. Each find, no matter how small, brings excitement. This year our research has been particularly revealing.

How do we know so much about the Gores? Primary sources, such as newspapers, letters, journals, maps, and government documents, help us build an understanding of life during the Gore era. We also find the Gores' history hidden in the historic buildings and landscape and even on eBay!

The mansion has many small hidden details. The removal of a surface wall from the first floor passage in the east hyphen of the mansion revealed a charming **original Gore wallpaper**, a geometric tree design in green and white. We were very surprised to find it.

Gore Place Collections Manager Lana Lewis is working with Conservator Christine Thomson to better understand how the Gores decorated their bed chambers in the 1806 Gore mansion. Imagine the excitement when a **glossy green black floor** was identified as original in the Gore chamber,

totally different from floor colors elsewhere on the upper floor. They also investigated wallpaper in the other bed chambers. They were disappointed to discover a fabulous green patterned wallpaper fragment was found to date from the 1960s!

Gore Place Guide and Historian Diann Strausberg discovered the eBay find in 2007 when she stumbled upon a **chair** that the seller said was owned by the Gores. Lana Lewis studied the provenance, or record of ownership, of this chair, and found it to be part of a set of dining chairs owned by the Gores. You can see this eBay find today in the mansion.

Diann Strausberg also uncovered the **curious tale of Howard Trask** in the *Salem Gazette* from 1823 while searching for stories about the Boston State Prison for her Master's Thesis from Harvard University Extension School. You can read an article written by Thom Roach, Gore Place's director of programs and interpretation, on our website at goreplace.org about Trask's escape and recapture in Gore's barn. This unexpected detail gives us insight into life on Mr. Gore's farm. Thom will tell the story as part of his tours and adapt it into a tale told during Frightful Fridays, one of our most popular October programs.

Continued on page 3...



Sunrise on the north pasture.

Photo by Linda Drake

Social Media Moment!

Share your memories and photos! Post on our Facebook page or tag us at @goreplace on Twitter and Instagram.

We Love our Volunteers!

Our volunteers lend their expertise and talents to Gore Place in so many ways. New volunteers are always welcome. Next spring, we will be introducing new learning experiences for our volunteers. Come join us! Email Catie Camp at volunteers@goreplace.org to find out more.



GORE PLACE

OFFICERS

Thomas Thaler, *President*
 Pam Swain, *Vice President*
 Electa Tritsch, *Vice President*
 Thomas Kohler, *Secretary*
 William Diercks, *Treasurer*
 Elizabeth Hagopian, *Assistant Treasurer*
 James F. Hunnewell, Jr., *At-Large*

GOVERNORS

Greer Candler
 Deborah Gates
 George Kimball
 Tiffany LeBlanc
 Allyson Lee—Trustees
 Johanna McBrien—
 Historic New England
 Karen McFarlan—
 Colonial Dames
 Beatrice Porter
 Dan Quinn
 Rick Olney
 Caitlin Roos
 Virginia White
 Linda Wiseman
 Stewart Woodward

HONORARY GOVERNOR FOR LIFE

Charlotte Patten

STAFF

Susan Robertson, *Executive Director*
 Scott Clarke, *Director of Farm & Landscape Operations*
 Thom Roach, *Director of Programs & Interpretation*
 Lana Lewis, *Collections Manager*
 Linda DeFranco, *Rentals Manager*
 Erin Halvey, *Social Media Manager*
 Emily Robertson, *Marketing Manager*
 Susan Katz, *Education Specialist*
 Kali Noble, *Membership & Annual Fund Coordinator*
 Catie Camp, *Volunteer Coordinator*
 Brendan Sullivan and John Storer, *Grounds Crew*

Guides

Miriam Boucher, Bob Brown, Prentice Crosier, Mike Dudal, Sue Martin, Cheryl Mezack, Anna Newberg, Stu Rubinow, Diann Strausberg



Letter from our Board President

Dear Friends of Gore Place,

I am very honored to be the new President of the Board of Governors of Gore Place and to follow Jim Hunnewell's strong leadership. Gore Place is fortunate to have a legacy of strong leadership over the years. It is this leadership working with our professional staff that allows Gore Place to meet the challenges of managing an historic house museum for success.

As we move forward, growing our donor base is one of my top priorities. I want to meet our current members and to welcome new ones. I want to spread the word about Gore Place and all it has to offer. I want to encourage like-minded organizations in Boston to collaborate with us. We have a gracious house and a beautifully restored carriage house in a bucolic setting and the staff has put together a full calendar of attractive programs. Please invite your friends and colleagues to visit the estate. Our staff are always happy to offer their expertise to engage and delight those whom we welcome here.

The Board and staff have a number of new initiatives underway. You can read about them in this newsletter. Whether it is the recreation of the bed chambers, planning for the restoration of the farm and landscape, or connecting the present to the past, research is a critical part of what we do and you can expect to hear about more in the future.

I look forward to serving as Board President. I applaud our Board and staff for their energy and enthusiasm and our membership for its continuing support. Together we are a great team!

Sincerely,

Tom Thaler

NEWS FROM YOUR DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Donors are our heroes! Your support champions our projects and gives us great encouragement. We could not make progress in restoration and education without you. Thank you!

As we look for new ways to increase philanthropic support for Gore Place, Giving Circles are now part of our Annual Fund. We hope that our donors will appreciate this new method of recognizing donors.

We have also created the **Rebecca & Christopher Gore Circle for Planned Giving** at Gore Place. Remembering Gore Place Society in your will, trust, insurance policy, or through an annuity ensures Gore Place will remain a community treasure and resource for generations to come. It can also provide significant tax and financial advantages to you and your loved ones.

New Giving Circles

Preservationists	\$10,000 or more
Stewards	\$5,000–\$9,999
Benefactors	\$2,500–\$4,999
Sustainers	\$1,500–\$2,499
Supporters	\$500–\$1,499
Donors	\$10–\$499

Supporters and above receive a complimentary membership as well as invitations to special events each year.

Salem Gazette, Salem, MA

JANUARY 28, 1823

Trask Retaken—We learn that Howard Trask, the convict who effected his escape from the county jail on Tuesday night last, was retaken in Waltham, and returned to the custody of the jailer, on Saturday evening last. A person who proved to be Trask was seen to go into a barn on the farm of Mr. Gore in Waltham, about 9 o'clock on that evening, by Mr. Isaac Farwell whose suspicions that the intentions of the person could not be good induced him to call another person, who entered the barn with him... Trask, we understand, offered no resistance when taken by Mr. Farwell. In his pocket was found a jack-knife and a piece of raw beef. —*Patriot*

Note: Isaac Farwell was the twin brother of Christopher Gore's farm manager, Jacob Farwell.

While reading the Adams Papers Digital Edition at the Massachusetts Historical Society, Executive Director Susan Robertson found **a brief description of Rebecca Gore**. We know Rebecca from her portrait that hangs in the Great Stairs at Gore Place. We have very few letters written by Rebecca and no descriptions of her, so John Quincy Adams's mention of her, while not very detailed, is fascinating for the staff to include in their tours.

John Quincy Adams to Abigail Adams

SEPTEMBER 24, 1785,
FROM THE ADAMS PAPERS
DIGITAL EDITION AT THE
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

"...I was obliged to stay in Town; I went with Mr. Tyler, and spent the Evening at Mr. Gore's. Mrs. Gore is a very sociable little woman, comely; not handsome."

Note: Royall Tyler was a Harvard classmate of Christopher Gore.

Why We Research

Who knew that a simple search on eBay could uncover a piece of Gore history? Every day we are always on the lookout for a new detail. There is still so much more to learn, and our excitement about finding each new detail will never wane. What have you come across lately that might interest us?



Don't miss this year's December Evening at Gore Place, Boston's Best Party.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6

Guests enjoy the 2016 event

(Top) Diana Olney, George Woodland, Tom Thaler, Vicky Cabot

(Bottom) Randy LeBlanc, Rick Lamb, Gary Kearney, Susan Kearney

Noteworthy

The Farm

Our registered Leicester Longwool sheep have arrived! Their names are Eleanor Blue Sky, Gemma Blue, Haddie Mae, Jenny Lynn, Kate, Luna, and Theodore. We are very pleased to join the effort in preserving this rare breed of sheep. These beautiful animals will join our period flock of Dominique chickens.

Acquisitions

As we transform the bed chambers in the mansion, we are acquiring new Boston period furnishings. A Seymour bed and dressing table were purchased with funds from the Sunfield Acquisition Fund at Gore Place.

The Landscape

A Rain Garden has been established in the south west corner of the estate near a storm water retention basin. The perennials and grasses selected for this garden were chosen for their ability to withstand fluctuating water levels. Thanks to the Beacon Hill Garden Club for support for this new landscape feature.

LANDSCAPE MASTER PLANNING

Our landscape was looking particularly lush this summer, a great setting for our new flock of Leicester Longwool sheep. They are not the only changes. We have planted new trees, shrubs and flowers from our master list of native or appropriate plant materials and continue to plan for ways to integrate the farm into the entire landscape. Our goal is to convey the full story of the Federal farm estate. This important stewardship continues to be supported by the Dorothy P. Wheatland Fund for the Landscape at Gore Place.



IN MEMORIAM

We regretfully report the death of Gore Place member and volunteer **Helen U. Baker** in July.

Helen was a lifelong resident of Belmont and an active Gore Place boutique volunteer for more than 20 years. Her holiday decorations were unique and were always appreciated by our members. She remained involved with Gore Place until her death. We will miss her creativity and her pleasant manner.

We are also sorry to report the death of Gore Place member **James D. McNeely** in July. Jim was the husband of former Gore Place Governor Barbara W. Moore and a prominent Boston architect noted for the historic renovation of Beacon Hill townhouses.

Upcoming Programs—Join Us!

Take a Walk Backpack Rentals

Year-round

Outdoor Babywearing Tours

October 2, 10 am

Mansion Babywearing Tours

October 3, November 7, January 2, February 6, and March 6, 10–11 am

Concerts in the Carriage House

October 4, November 8, 7:30 pm

Columbus Day Game and Tour

October 9, 10 am–2 pm

Tot Time at the Grove

October 11, November 8 and December 13, 10–11 am

Frightful Fridays: spooky tales told in the mansion

October 13, 20 and 27, 7 and 8:15 pm

Tot Time on the Farm

October 18, 10–11 am

Moonlight Tours

November 10 and 24, 2017; January 5 and 19, 2018; February 9 and 23 and March 9 and 23, 2018, 7:30 pm

Holiday Centerpiece Workshop

November 21, 7 pm

Handmade for the Holidays Shopping Party (NEW!)

November 30, 6:30 pm

An Evening in December: Holiday Party

December 6, 6 pm

Santa Teas

December 16, 10 am and 1 pm
December 17, 1 pm and 3:30 pm

Holiday Tea

December 16, 4 pm

Music for the Holly Days

December 20, 7:30 pm

Snowshoe Rentals

January–March, during tour hours

Martin Luther King Day Tours

Monday, January 15 10 am–2 pm

Edgar Allan Poe: Master of the Macabre

January 20, 3 and 5 pm

Book Sale

January 15–20, during tour hours

Sunday Socials at Gore Place (NEW!)

February 11 and March 11, 3 pm

GIVE TO OUR BOOK SALE

New Life for your Used Books!

This year the annual Gore Place Book Sale will be January 15–20, 2018. We are now accepting used book donations weekdays 9 am–4 pm or call 781-894-2798 to make an appointment. This is a wonderful way to support Gore Place. Thank you to our many members who supported this program last year!

Visit goreplace.org for details and to purchase tickets online.



FIFTY ACRES & THREE CENTURIES

52 GORE STREET
WALTHAM, MA 02453