

## IN THIS ISSUE

**A Worthy Fight**

**Letter from the President**

**Raise the Barn**

**Gore Society Member**

**A Life So Soon Ended**

**Noteworthy**

## A Worthy Fight

*By Diann Ralph Strausberg, Gore Place Historian*

Senators Christopher Gore and Rufus King were eager to reach Washington. They came to Congress as recently appointed Senators—Gore for Massachusetts and King for New York. America was at war with Great Britain and the war was going badly; enlistments were down, attempts to capture Canada had failed, and the British fleet had blockaded most of the coast. Along the way the senators heard rumors of President Madison's latest plan; someone had leaked the secret message that he sent to Congress. Arriving on December 14, 1813, Gore and King rode straight to the Capitol Building and discovered the Senate in secret session behind closed doors.

What the two men did next made the newspapers. They entered the Senate immediately, leaving their wives Rebecca Gore and Mary King alone with an escort, "to be attended to their house in Georgetown." The Federalist newspaper added: "We know these distinguished statesmen will throw their veteran bodies between the sword of the executive and their suffering country . . . But we are forced to believe that nothing can arrest the whirlwind, which is about to burst upon this devoted Republic."

Gore and King found the Republicans\* rushing to grant Madison his secret request: The President wanted American ports closed. No American ships or goods would be allowed to leave and possibly reach the British. He knew this controversial embargo would ruin Americans who depended on the sea trade, people found mostly in Federalist strongholds of New England and other coastal areas. Madison suggested that "all good citizens" should be "cheerful," because the embargo would hurt the British. Those who complain—he meant New Englanders and Federalists, like King and Gore—are selfish and "ready to sacrifice the interests of the country in pursuit of their own." With secrecy and rule changes, Republicans avoided public protest and quickly passed Madison's Embargo Bill.

The Federalists thought the war was dangerous, because the Republicans had declared war despite the country lacking troops, a navy and money. The Federalists, outnumbered in Congress, had too few votes to achieve much. They decided to oppose the war in any legal way possible. King called Madison's war a "war of party." Senator Gore was ready to fight.

\*The Democratic-Republican political party founded by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.



Rear-Admiral Sir George Cockburn (1772–1853) by John James Halls.  
© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, UK

**Cockburn stands triumphantly against a burning Washington. He burned the White House—after he and his officers enjoyed a dinner for 40 abandoned by a fleeing Dolley Madison.**

## Mr. Gore Speaks

New Hampshire Senator Jeremiah Mason had Christmas dinner with the Gores in 1813. It's likely the men discussed the Republicans' next move: a ban on imports, including articles made of cotton or wool. Madison wanted economic pressure on the largest producer of these items, the enemy, Great Britain.

In the Senate, Gore spoke against the ban, which he said, "dooms whole states to sloth and famine." Gore was thinking of the merchants who imported the products and the large numbers of Americans who wore mostly cotton and wool. Gore next pointed out the paradox in these trade restrictions by reminding Republicans that ending British interference with American trade was one reason they wanted this war. "She attempts to capture our ships, to destroy our trade . . . We co-operate most manfully in this work of ruin . . . We annihilate our ships, destroy our produce, imprison all our citizens, suffer not one to escape from the United States." The Republicans, Gore declared, had made America a British "ally in bringing destruction on the people

**A Worthy Fight continues on page 4**

## IN MEMORIAM

### SETER JONES

Gore Place is sad to report the death of former governor, Senter Jones, this July in Maine. Senter is remembered for her warm disposition while she served on the Board. She was particularly supportive of the staff. Senter and her husband, Bennett, would invite Gore Place staff members to social gatherings at their home in Cambridge. Her gracious hospitality was memorable.

## SOCIAL MEDIA MOMENT

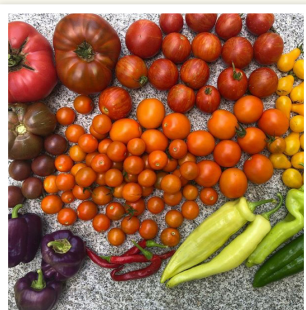


Image courtesy of @dee\_triple\_dee

**A spectacular bounty grown by a Plant Sale customer!**

Share your memories and photos with us. Tag @goreplace on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



## GORE PLACE

### OFFICERS

Thomas Thaler, *President*  
 Pamela Swain, *Vice President*  
 Electa Tritsch, *Vice President*  
 Thomas Kohler, *Secretary*  
 George Kimball, *Treasurer*  
 Elizabeth Hagopian, *Assistant Treasurer*  
 Jennifer Drayton, *At-Large*

### GOVERNORS

Greer Candler  
 Michael Carter  
 William Diercks  
 Deborah Gates  
 James F. Hunnewell, Jr.  
 Tiffany LeBlanc  
 Johanna McBrien  
 Historic New England  
 Karen McFarlan  
 Colonial Dames  
 Rick Olney  
 Raysa Ortiz  
 Beatrice Porter  
 The Trustees  
 Caitlin Roos  
 Virginia White  
 Linda Wiseman  
 Stewart Woodward

### HONORARY GOVERNOR FOR LIFE

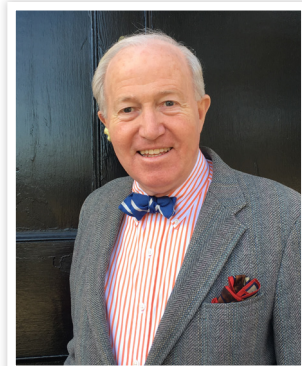
Charlotte Patten

### STAFF

Susan Robertson, *Executive Director*  
 Scott Clarke, *Director of Farm & Landscape Operations*  
 Thom Roach, *Director of Programs & Interpretation*  
 Diana Roberts, *Director of Institutional Advancement*  
 Linda DeFranco, *Rentals Manager*  
 Erin Halvey, *Social Media Manager*  
 Emily Robertson, *Marketing Manager*  
 Marisa Calise, *Education Specialist*  
 Kali Noble, *Membership & Annual Fund Coordinator*  
 Aaron Rawley, *Volunteer Coordinator*  
 Brian Feeley, *Grounds Crew*  
 Diann Ralph Strausberg, *Historian*  
 Fiona Howard, *Bookkeeper*

### GUIDES

Miriam Boucher, Bob Brown, Prentice Crosier, Mike Dudal, Lorna Keith, Cheryl Mezack, Anna Newberg, Stu Rubinow, James St. Vincent



## Letter from our Board President

### Dear Friends of Gore Place,

This year was to be a year of celebration of the 85th anniversary of Gore Place. Instead, we must cope with a pandemic. Please be assured that the governors and staff at Gore Place are just as committed to the future of our museum as our founders were 85 years ago! I particularly want to applaud our donors and members for their financial support during this difficult time. The response to the annual appeal was truly amazing! A simple thank you does not seem sufficient; it is, however, heartfelt!

Our staff continues to excel in their creativity and resourcefulness. If you'll visit our website, you will instantly understand what I mean. And, once again, this issue of *The Agrarian* will offer you a juicy read! You will learn about the Gores in Washington, D.C. when Christopher Gore served as a US senator during the War of 1812, one of the most unpopular wars our nation ever fought. Gore and the Federalists believed the war was unnecessary and dangerous to American interests. In Congress, Gore continually opposed President Madison and the Democratic Republicans. His opponents sometimes called him selfish or unpatriotic, but Gore continued to stand on his principles and to fight to end the war.

Despite wartime troubles and party conflict, the Washington social scene drew politicians from both sides, their wives, and the celebrities who came to town. We will read what they really thought of each other through the letters they wrote home. You will be fascinated!

Happily, outdoor tours on the estate have begun again. Why not come visit? Even a slow meander around the property lifts one's mood immeasurably!

Remember, we are humble enough to say we honestly can use your help; we genuinely appreciate it.

*Sincerely,*

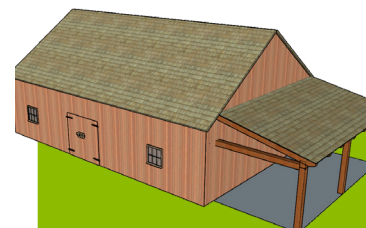
Thomas Thaler

## Raise the Barn Campaign at Gore Place

You can help us build an authentic, early 19th century-style threshing barn for the Farm at Gore Place. By building a barn similar to what would have stood here in the Gores' time, we will bring historic farming to life for our visitors. But the barn won't just help Gore Place visitors experience history. The barn will house our flock of Leicester Longwool sheep. The illustration to the right, produced by Hardwick Post and Beam, shows what our barn will look like.

Today, you can only see our sheep from a distance in the pasture. In the new barn, you will be able to closely view the sheep – even newborn lambs with their mothers. And it will keep our animals safe from both winter storms and predators like coyotes. In addition to being historically accurate, the barn will be enjoyable for all with accessible pathways and modern safety features.

We are excited to announce that this campaign received a \$200,000 matching grant from the Mass Cultural Council (MCC), a state agency, through its Cultural Facilities Fund. We are grateful for the ongoing support of the MCC. The Development Committee has formed a sub-committee for this campaign. Governors Debbie Gates, Jim Hunnewell and Tom Thaler along with Director of Institutional Advancement, Diana Roberts, are the initial team on this effort. More members will be added later.



### THREE WAYS TO DONATE TO THE CAMPAIGN

**Website** | Online at  
[goreplace.org](https://goreplace.org)

**Mobile** | Text BARN  
 to 44-321

**Mail** | Gore Place Society  
 52 Gore Street Waltham,  
 MA 02453



## Newest Member Joins Christopher and Rebecca Gore Legacy Society

The Christopher and Rebecca Gore Legacy Society recently welcomed James (Jim) Hunnewell, Jr., as its newest member.

In 2000 Jim was working as a principal in the architectural firm of Shepley Bulfinch in Boston when he was invited by the then-president of the Board, Ted Spencer, to join a task force to explore ways to make the Gore Mansion more accessible. "I quickly began to appreciate the unique architectural significance of the Mansion and the impressive open landscape of the 50-acre estate." The following year he joined the Board and his involvement rapidly deepened until he became president from 2011 to 2017.

Asked what he thinks has been one of Gore Place's greatest successes, he is quick to say, "I think the collective effort of the Board and the staff to undertake and complete the Carriage House renovation project has been the most challenging and significant accomplishment to date."

What does he see as Gore Place's greatest challenge for the future? "In a word—fundraising. If there is to be a future for Gore Place, we must raise enough funds to maintain the property, staff and programs for our members and the Greater Boston community."

For a long time, Jim has been actively supporting a wide range of cultural nonprofit institutions. Yet Gore Place remains high on his list of properties that effectively support the teaching of social, cultural and regional history and values and seeks to engage broader audiences.

Gore Place is most grateful for planned gifts generously made by donors like Jim who wish to preserve and protect the future of this historic estate. If you have made a planned gift, or wish to do so, please contact Diana Roberts (Dina) at (617) 875-2670 (mobile) or at [dianaroberts@goreplace.org](mailto:dianaroberts@goreplace.org).



Susan and Jim Hunnewell at the East Entry of the Gore Mansion.

## Our English-Style Threshing Barn

Gore Place needs a barn for our animals. To maximize the safety of the animals and the dry storage of hay and grains, such a barn is essential. We plan to replicate an English-style threshing barn that was so common on New England farms in the early 19th century. While we do not know the exact barn Christopher Gore had, historical records provide details about the style of barn he might have built.

The Reverend Samuel Ripley of Waltham, friend and minister to the Gores, said of the Gores' sprawling farm and landscape, "utility is the main design." Therefore we are quite sure that Gore would have had at least one English-style threshing barn among his many farm buildings. These simple, sturdy structures could be used in multiple ways through all seasons and they were built throughout the New England region into New York and Pennsylvania from 1700-1900. The English-style threshing barn was 1 and ½ stories tall and featured three bays, a central corridor, livestock pens on one side and grain storage for threshing on the other side with hay above. Outside doors on the long sides were common but not universal. Swinging doors were typical.

Threshing is the process of separating the grain from the chaff or husks. Jacob Farwell, Gore's groundskeeper and farmer, wrote on August

18, 1821, that he spent the day "Threshing and winnowing Rye", as well as barley and turnip seeds. Originally, threshing was done by hand with a flail, a wooden staff with a heavy short stick swinging from it to beat the husks. It was a laborious task. President Washington wanted to increase his yields so he designed a 16-sided "treading" barn in 1792 at Mount Vernon. He used horses to tread the grain to separate the grain and the chaff indoors which kept it clean and contained. By 1800, threshing machines began to be available in England. We do not know if Jacob Farwell was using the new device

but letters between Rufus King and Gore reveal Christopher's interest in all farming gadgets including Thomas Coke's "Crusher & his inverted double horse hoe." Gore was curious about these new inventions and wanted to know if they were available yet in America.

The history of farming is an important part of the American story. Building a barn for the Farm at Gore Place will be a significant step for our museum to protect our rare breed of sheep and to teach about New England farming then and now.



Photo courtesy of Hardwick Post and Beam

of this country.” But Republicans ignored Gore’s arguments and passed the import bans.

Gore introduced a resolution calling unconstitutional President Madison’s recent recess appointment of peace envoys to Britain—made with no Senate review. Much of Gore’s case rested on a distinction he made between “filling a vacancy” and “creating and filling a new position.” Gore said he was defending the Constitution. The Republicans found his arguments petty and poorly timed. Was he trying to interfere with peace talks? Senator Bibb of Georgia publicly questioned Gore’s motives and the motives of the Federalists. They “profess to be the exclusive friends of peace, but [their] daily business is to clamor against the conclusion of war and to present every possible impediment to its successful prosecution.” Gore declared his motives pure. As to his party, he told the Senate this: The Federalist “character is deeply marked in the history of their conduct when they administered the government and in the glory which [then] accompanied the name of America at home and abroad.” Compare “the luster of [Federalist] Washington and his administration” with what followed: Republicans, “the shades of night.”

What most struck one observer about this 13th Congress was the level of party conflict: “A great majority of both parties,” he said, “are prepared to encounter the perils of a revolution, rather than unite in any measures for administering the government.”

## A Growing Crisis

When Congress adjourned, the Gores must have happily escaped Washington and headed home, looking forward to spring on their Waltham country estate with its strawberries,

asparagus and early peas. Pleasant thoughts were soon erased. Gore found “the whole of our country on the seaboard most dreadfully distressed.” An economic downturn had hit the Northeast. Many who once were in “comfortable circumstances” were in need of aid. In one town, those relying on the almshouse increased from 20 to 244. Here were the results of Madison’s war, his broad trade restrictions, and an expanding British blockade of the coast.

Alarming, too, were reports about the British Royal Navy. A large part of the fleet lay in Chesapeake Bay, where Rear Admiral Sir George Cockburn’s ships raided coastal towns. Despite some early U.S. Navy wins, the American naval forces were outnumbered, especially now. Napoleon’s defeat and abdication in early 1814 allowed Great Britain to turn its focus from a war with France to one with America. More British warships were arriving. Cockburn would soon be on the move. In mid-August came news of “a great force in the Chesapeake . . . advancing towards Washington.” A letter came from that city: “We are all in alarm here!” On August 24, Washington burned. Cockburn and the invading British left only one public building unharmed, the U.S. Patent Office. Its Superintendent, Dr. William Thornton, convinced British soldiers not to destroy the irreplaceable record of human knowledge stored there. The Capitol and the President’s House stood as burned out shells. No one knew which town was next.

What should Federalists do? They wanted the war to end; they did not want their country invaded and destroyed. When Congress opened, Gore chaired a committee of Federalists who shaped a new party strategy. They would defend the country by



**In December 1812, USS Constitution demolished HMS Java in one of several early U.S. Navy victories over a British navy considered superior.**

United States Navy Art Collection, Naval History and Heritage Command.

cooperating with the administration in raising troops and money. Staying true to their principles, they would reject the expected call for conscription and oppose Madison if he called for another attempt to invade Canada. When a conscription bill came to the Senate, Gore gave a highly-praised speech against this already unpopular idea. The bill failed to pass.

Gore took a more personal stand against the Tax Bill. War had almost bankrupted the country and tax revenues were needed. Federalists joined Republicans in supporting the proposed tax. Gore, however, voted against it, a rare break with King who voted for the bill. In his speech of opposition, Gore charged Republicans with neglect of Massachusetts for having refused the State the necessary troops and funds for its wartime defense. Gore supported taxes; that was not his objection. Rather, he expected the Republican administration to bypass Massachusetts once again to take taxes from its citizens and use the money elsewhere. King understood. “Gore’s Tax Bill speech,” he told a newspaper, was “one of great ability and precision.” His “no” vote was not about taxes, King explained. It was about other government actions; it was “protest.”

## Peace

Peace came with the Treaty of Ghent in February 1815. The treaty did no more than return both countries to the status quo before the war. The Federalists felt vindicated. “The treaty must be deemed disgraceful to

**A Worthy Fight continues at the top of page 5**



**Dolley in her Drawing Room, dressed in pink, next to naval hero Commodore Stephen Decatur. She hoped her informal social gatherings would lessen party conflict.**

“The Splendid Mrs. Madison: In the Elliptical Saloon 1810-1814” by Peter Waddell. Credit: Peter Waddell for the White House Historical Association. Licensed to Gore Place for use in *The Agrarian*, Fall 2020.



the government who made the war and the peace," Gore predicted. Instead the Republicans successfully touted the war as their victory. After the Senate adjourned, King took time to reflect on his Senate experience. "I am obliged to confess," he told Gore, "that the result of this process is discouragement, and humiliation." He wondered "to what good purpose do a few impartial and worthy men toil and weary themselves in public?" Perhaps "Federalists of our age must be content with the past."

However much discouraged, the men returned to the Senate in late 1815. But illness kept Gore away from the Senate floor. The chronic "rheumatic affection" in one of his knees was worsening. In the spring the Gores traveled to Warm Springs, VA, hoping its mineral baths would relieve Gore's crippling pain. He held more hope for his health than for the Federalists' chances. He and King watched as Federalists lost elections in Massachusetts, New York and around the country. Gore resigned from the Senate. "I cannot perceive any advantage ... from any further struggle of the Federalists."

In late July, the Gores returned to Waltham and the country seat Gore lovingly called "my farm in Waltham." Rebecca had been unwell for much of the long trip back from Virginia. Gore hoped "the tranquility of this place" would restore her. He may have hoped the same for himself.

A Worthy Fight continues on page 8

## At Home in Washington

Senators Gore and King first met at Harvard College in the 1770s. As U.S. senators in 1813, the two old friends, along with their wives, shared rented rooms at the well-known Crawford's Hotel in Georgetown. Most Congressmen lived in boarding houses; the Gores lived in more private and spacious quarters, which likely matched the requirements they had sent to a potential landlord: "A private house . . . Two good bedrooms, with fireplaces, drawing and dining rooms, a separate table for four persons, accommodations for four or five white servants, stable for the horses, coal fire preferable to wood ones, fire, candles, horse feed, everything except liquor to be supplied." Years later, Daniel Webster, a new Congressman in 1813, recalled that Gore and King had lived "in a kind of state now unknown; each of them keeping a coach-and-four and driving three miles every morning" to the Senate. New Hampshire Senator Jeremiah Mason found that few people in Washington had both the ability and the inclination to entertain. The Gores did, and Mason often went to visit them. He wrote to his wife: "They are the best people here or anywhere."

## Overheard in Washington

Washington's foremost hostess Dolley Madison entertained at the President's House.<sup>1</sup> Her weekly "drawing rooms," open to anyone, earned the nickname "squeezes" to describe the two hundred or more guests often packed into the rooms. The Gores, the Kings and their friend Senator Mason might be spotted in the crowd. Guests wrote home about these and other parties. Through their letters, we can listen in on some private comments.

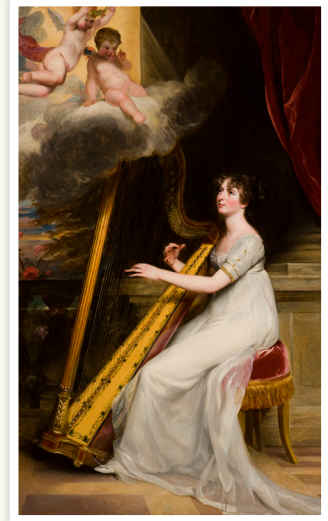
"I suppose she has come here to show herself," Mason wrote home when the wealthy Salem, MA, couple Mr. and Mrs. Richard Crowninshield Derby arrived in town. Vice President Elbridge Gerry, at Mrs. Madison's when the couple was expected, later wrote his wife, "The room was very full and all were on tiptoe to see such a celebrated beauty." He thought everyone was "much disappointed . . . I made a bow to [Mrs. Derby] but thought my little favorite vastly superior—I mean Mme. Bonaparte."<sup>2</sup>

A popular guest at Mrs. Madison's, Madame Bonaparte, formerly Elizabeth "Betsy" Patterson of Baltimore, had at age seventeen married Jerome Bonaparte, Napoleon's brother. Two years later, Betsy had a young son and a marriage annulled by Napoleon who wanted Jerome married to a German princess.

Senator Mason wrote his wife: "I have become a little acquainted with Madame Bonaparte . . . she is a new character; she has all the quickness and volatility which is said to belong to the French, moves quick and talks fast and thinks little." After he "sipped tea several times" at Betsy's, he reported: "have generally found her surrounded by fashionable old and young men. She and her visitors are made up mostly of fashion. Conversation, of course, is of the tinsel kind . . . I do not intend to have much more to do with it."<sup>3</sup>

The ladies wrote home about Betsy's French fashion, worn at the "squeezes" and private parties. Mrs. Calvert reported that Betsy "wears dresses so transparent and tight that you can see her skin through them, and no chemise at all!" Margaret Bayard Smith wrote, "Mobs of boys have crowded round her splendid

equipment to see what I hope will not be often seen in this country, an almost naked woman." When Betsy once again appeared in a transparent dress, the ladies took her aside. If you wish to meet us at the next party, they advised, you "must promise to have more clothes on."<sup>4</sup>



John Singleton Copley (American, 1738-1815). St. Cecilia, a portrait (Mrs. Richard Crowninshield Derby), 1803, oil on canvas. Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Henry C. Landon III. 2008.50. Collection of The Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC.

**Wealthy, fashionable and beautiful, Martha (Coffin) Crowninshield Derby as Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of music, in luxurious dress and surroundings, all reflecting Mrs. Derby's position in elite society.**



Portrait of Elizabeth Patterson Bonaparte (1785-1879). By François Joseph Kinsoen, ca. 1817. Museum Department. From the Collection of H. Furlong Baldwin Library, Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore.

**Perhaps the most talked-about and intriguing guest in wartime Washington, "Betsy" Bonaparte from Baltimore loved French fashion, manners and society.**

1. As today's White House was called.

2. "Letters of Elbridge Gerry, 1797-1814," *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, October, 1913-June, 1914. Volume XLVII, 480-503.

3. *Memoir and Correspondence of Jeremiah Mason*.

4. Cynthia Diane Earman, "Boardinghouses, Parties and the Creation of a Political Society: Washington City, 1800-1830" (1992). LSU Historical Dissertations and Theses. 8222. [https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/gradschool\\_dissertations/8222](https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/gradschool_dissertations/8222)

## A Life So Soon Ended

The world has been struggling with a pandemic this year but history tells us that viral epidemics and the tragic deaths that they bring are not new. In our collection is a portrait of a distant cousin of Christopher Gore, Charles Thomas Gore. Charles Gore was the grandson of Ebenezer Gore. Ebenezer and Governor Gore shared a great-great-grandfather, John Gore of Roxbury.

Charles was the fourth of eight children and the youngest of three boys born to sign-painter Christopher Gore (Governor Gore's cousin) and his wife Sarah Woodman. Charles' death in New Orleans in 1837 was the most recent tragedy the family had endured as it followed close behind the loss of his mother and older sister Sarah in 1834.

Why did Charles travel to distant New Orleans? His obituary offers a clue: "Ardent and enterprising, full of hope and buoyant with expectation, he left his friends and home, to find that reward for industry and talent, which he thought were too scantily rewarded here."

It's a familiar story. The youngest of three sons, seeing little in the way of prospects at home, strikes out for distant lands, hoping to make his fortune. For some, the venture proves fruitful. For Charles, it proved fatal.

New Orleans had seen outbreaks of yellow fever for years before Charles' arrival. Was he taking a calculated risk by going there?

Although records show the presence of yellow fever in New Orleans as early as 1769, there are few official statistics regarding yellow fever in that city before 1817. That year saw 90 deaths from the disease out of a population of just over 24,000. Each subsequent year saw those numbers fluctuate between a few to over 2,000 cases.

By 1837, the population of New Orleans had grown to almost 70,000. That year the first case of yellow fever appeared on July 24. By the end of the year, official reports cite 1,000 cases with 412 fatalities—among the dead was Charles Thomas Gore.

A letter written by another twenty-year-old New Englander named Wellington Peabody recounts those times. Peabody, a medical student and member of the famed Peabody family of Salem, Massachusetts, had gone to New Orleans in hope of becoming an expert in the treatment of yellow fever. He found work in a 100-bed hospital run by a local physician named MacFarlane.

In a letter to his mother dated September 22, 1837 (Charles Thomas Gore died just nine days earlier), Peabody wrote of the epidemic's severity: "... one hundred have been dying daily for these three weeks past and though there is some diminution in the mortality of the disease at the present time, it is not so much from the purity of the air and the removal of the causes of disease, as from the want of subjects, for them to act upon."

Erroneously believing foul air the cause of the disease (it is a virus transmitted, primarily, through the bite of infected mosquitos), Peabody warded off any signs of fever or unease "... by the use of a little calomel, limewater, and carbonate of ammonia."

Peabody went on to say that he planned to construct a thesis on Yellow Fever for his graduate offering to the Massachusetts Medical Society. As to whether he would ever return to New Orleans, he assured his mother, "I would not try another summer for a kingdom."

He ended his letter to his mother with the following sentiment: "My heart yearns for New England—its pure air, its glorious forests, & farms—its morals so pilgrim-like—who knows the value of home, but the poor fellow who dwells amid strangers—and sees no kindred spirit—enjoys no kindred associations! 'There is no place like home.'"

Wellington never mailed the letter. He took ill on the 24th and died five days later.

Two young sons of New England had ventured far from home, hoping to secure a future. Neither returned.

It's an unenviable task, eulogizing a life so soon ended as that of young Charles Thomas Gore. The writer of his obituary made this attempt: "Success crowned his efforts and hope lit up with increasing lustre the future before him. Friends, numerous and valuable gathered around, and though the threshold of manhood he had not yet passed, many there were, in age his elders, who respected and loved him; for his mind was strong and vigorous, far in advance of his years, and his manners open and engaging."

Statistics on yellow fever in New Orleans from George Augustin. *The History of Yellow Fever*. New Orleans: Searcy & Pfaff Ltd., 1909.

Information on Wellington Peabody from Scott Sanders. Letter from Wellington Peabody to Mrs. Elizabeth Peabody 22 Sep 1837. Antioch College: Antiochiana, May 1, 2020.



**Portrait, Charles Thomas Gore (1818-1837)**  
American, c. 1835, oil on canvas.

Charles Thomas Gore was the son of Christopher Gore, a cousin of Gov. Christopher Gore. Charles Thomas Gore died in New Orleans during an epidemic. This portrait appears to have been painted from the likeness found in an earlier miniature portrait and was probably commissioned by his family following his death.

From the Collection of Gore Place Society

We couldn't produce  
*The Agrarian* without the  
support of our members!  
Please join us with a new  
or renewed membership  
[goreplace.org/support/  
membership](https://goreplace.org/support/membership)



## Noteworthy

*Noteworthy* is usually a small section with news about Gore Place. While we are closed for regular tours during the pandemic, our Board, staff and volunteers have produced many accomplishments for Gore Place, so we devote an entire page to these highlights!

### JOIN US OUTDOORS!

Details: [goreplace.org](https://goreplace.org)

Outdoor Tours | Select Dates

Handmade for the Holidays crafts fair |  
October 3

Frightful Fridays | October 16, 23, 30



Photo by Eric Workman | TMP Images

## #MuseumFromHome and Face-to-Face

**Digital Engagement** | The closure of the museum buildings last March did not mean the end of programs at Gore Place. Within days, programs moved online. With the encouragement and full support of our Board, we formed a new Digital Content team to create many new offerings on our website, social media and webinar platforms, including virtual Moonlight Tours, Museum from Home family activities, live-streamed concerts, a Virtual Sheepshearing Festival, live online talks on Robert Roberts and our Leicester Longwool sheep, and online articles on history topics from our 85th anniversary to behind-the-scenes from our collection. These experiences attract new friends to Gore Place and provide new revenue streams. Whether online or face-to-face, we'll keep telling the story of this wonderful historic site—past, present and future!

**50 Acres of Open Space** | Our visitors found relief from lockdown in the natural beauty of our grounds. During the early part of the pandemic shutdown, over 500 visitors per day enjoyed the open space of our estate. Open space is a valuable community resource!

**Outdoor Events** | With restrictions easing, Gore Place will again offer in-person events, including Summer Corn Roasts and outdoor tours, to provide additional earned revenue.

**Story Trail** | Gore Place is partnering with the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement program administered by the Watertown Public Schools to add new bilingual stories to our outdoor story trail.

**Life at the Farm** | Due to the pandemic, we cancelled our annual Sheepshearing Festival. Expert shearer Kevin Ford sheared the sheep in May. This spring, our flock grew with 14 new Leicester Longwool lambs born at the Farm. We also moved our annual spring Plant Sale online, selling our plants with no-contact pickup. Customers responded enthusiastically, and we sold all of our inventory!

## Financial Support

Thanks to all who made this a banner year for the Annual Fund. We raised more than \$225,000 for the Fund in FY20, 18% over the original goal, a sum that nearly doubled the FY19 total of \$115,000.

Ten Community Partners contributed almost \$20,000 in business sponsorships this year. The goal for our Community Partners program for 2021 is \$25,000.

Gore Place received a \$200,000 grant from the Mass Cultural Council's Cultural Facilities Fund for the Raise the Barn Campaign. The grant requires a \$200,000 match within two years.

The Accessibility Initiative at Gore Place received a \$3,000 grant from the Universal Participation Innovation Fund of the Mass Cultural Council for a "Know Before You Go" video for our website.

Gore Place received a Paycheck Protection Program loan from the SBA. Because of this funding, support from our donors and members, and sound financial strategy of our Board of Governors and Finance Committee, Gore Place has not laid off or furloughed any staff during the pandemic.

Special thanks to the Mass Cultural Council, Foundation for MetroWest, Mass Humanities and Power Options for additional general support during the pandemic.

Gore Place is now using Text-to-Donate, a fundraising tool that allows visitors to make donations easily and quickly on their mobile devices. To donate to our Annual Fund, Text GORE to 44-321. To donate to our Raise the Barn Campaign, text BARN to 44-321.

## New Strategic Initiatives at Gore Place

**Strategic Planning** | Under the leadership of Governor Elizabeth Hagopian, Gore Place has a new three-year Strategic Plan to ensure our ongoing financial stability and sustainability.

**Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion (DEAI)** | Under the leadership of Governors Stewart Woodward and Raysa Ortiz, Gore Place prepared a public DEAI statement, including an action plan to guide future efforts.

### A Worthy Fight continued from page 5

On Christmas Day 1816, Gore wrote to King that the “weather being mild & pleasant this morning, we came to pass Christmas” with family in Boston. Three years had gone by since that Christmas at Georgetown, when Mason came to dinner. Politics had changed. “We are quite tranquil here,” Gore wrote. “The general Gov[ernment] and its operation excite no interest and hardly any curiosity.” Indeed, with so little interest around the country, no candidate had run against Republican James Monroe that year; he won the Presidency unopposed.

Gore had often considered leaving his legal and political career to retire to his farm and his books. Ambition and finances had kept him at work. Given his worsening rheumatism, retirement was now a necessity, but it was also an opportunity. At last, he was retiring to the country. Gore told King how he and Rebecca were preparing at Waltham, “putting our house in a state for winter quarters by some double windows, repairing the stoves & making flues for the smoke . . . laying down woolen

carpets & fixing up curtains . . . so that we feel ourselves altogether comfortable & have no regrets at being absent from Washington.”

For more on the War of 1812, see Donald R. Hickey, *The War of 1812: A Forgotten Conflict*. Bicentennial Edition, Urbana, IL, University of Illinois Press, 2012.

Primary Sources: Annals of Congress, <https://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwaclink.html#anchor13>; *Memoir and Correspondence of Jeremiah Mason*. Reproduction of the privately printed edition of 1873, Limited to fifteen hundred numbered copies, illustrated and annotated with enlarged and revised index, By G. J. Clark, Esq. of Kansas; and Rufus King Papers, New York Historical Society.

Newspapers: Columbian Centinel; Daily National Intelligencer; Federal Republican; Senator.



**The Capitol was Washington’s most beautiful building, until the fire. The burnt remains of its marble columns inspired one observer to dub the wreckage, “a most magnificent ruin.”**

Munger, George. U.S. Capitol after burning by the British. United States, Washington D.C., 1814. Library of Congress.



52 GORE STREET  
WALTHAM, MA 02453