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## Social Media Moment!



### #ColorOurCollections

We participated in New York Academy of Medicine's #ColorOurCollections social media event in February! We shared images from our collections to color in like a coloring book. Find ours as well as 140 other institutions here: [library.nyam.org/colorourcollections/](http://library.nyam.org/colorourcollections/)

### #MuseumWeek

Join us April 23-29 for #MuseumWeek, a worldwide social media celebration of museums! Tag your favorite Gore Place memories with a new hashtag each day. Follow us to learn more!



Seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts attributed to John Gore, Boston, 1785-1790 (left). Portrait of John Gore by John Johnson, c. 1790 (right). From the collection of Gore Place Society.

## The Clamor of Controversy: An Exile's Story

In the summer of 1777, Christopher Gore's father, John, found himself thousands of miles from home writing a letter of condolence to his children in Boston upon the death of their mother, Frances. He wrote,

*"...pray be loving to one another and as soon as God permits me I will come to you. I pray God grant it may be soon."*

Regarding the circumstances which brought him to this unhappy place he wrote,

*"...alas what desolation and mischief has the noise and Clamor of Controversy brought on us."*

How had John Gore found himself in this position? With the stroke of a pen he had gone from being a respected man in his community, a successful artisan and merchant with a shop on Queen Street, a Captain in the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Corps, an Overseer of the Poor and a man with Esquire added to his name to a traitor to the cause of Liberty, a despised Loyalist, an exile and a political refugee.

As early as 1765, John Gore and his sons, John Jr. and Samuel, stood together to protest the hated Stamp Act which Parliament had imposed on the colonies. The next year, they joined with the Sons of Liberty to celebrate Parliament's repeal of that same act. But as protests in Boston became increasingly violent, John began to see them devolve from righteous indignation against unjust taxation to the wanton destruction of British imported goods, goods he depended on in order to survive as a prominent merchant.

In 1774, John Gore was a signer of a letter endorsing Thomas Hutchinson, acting governor of the Province of Massachusetts and General Thomas Gage, commander of the British troops in North America. Gage became responsible for enforcing the Intolerable Acts to punish people for the destruction of British imports. Signing this letter of support branded Gore as a Loyalist and was tantamount to treason. As tensions mounted, conditions for Loyalists deteriorated. By March 1776, John Gore left his family and fled to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Halifax was hard pressed to take in the thousands of refugees fleeing the colonies. With food and housing costs high and no prospect of work, John Gore continued on to England. He soon found himself living as a pauper on a royal pension of 100 pounds per year.

From the beginning of his exile, John Gore's sons hoped to bring their father home. In September of 1777, Christopher wrote to his father saying the time was not yet right to seek a pardon. As was the case with all Absentees (the legal term for anyone who had abandoned the Province of Massachusetts Bay for any part of the British Dominions prior to April 1776), John Gore was prohibited from returning to Massachusetts by a 1778 act

In this issue of *The Agrarian*, we share more new details about the lives of the Gores and their family learned during ongoing archival research efforts. Don't miss these articles on pages 1 and 3, as well as the back cover!

*Continued on page 3*



## GORE PLACE

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### Guides

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



## Letter from our Board President

Dear Friends of Gore Place,

My first few months as your board president have been a whirlwind of activity! There is so much for me to learn and so many people with whom to connect! Growing our donor base is one of my top priorities. I take it very seriously. Wherever I find myself, whether in a restaurant, traveling or just out and about, I speak of Gore Place and I find that people are as enthusiastic as I am. It is very gratifying!

Thanks to our board and staff, I never lack for new initiatives to discuss. You will read in this newsletter about great progress on numerous projects:

- **Archival research that continues to yield new anecdotes about the Gores, their friends and their staff.**
- **Architectural research in the mansion that never ceases to surprise as it uncovers new clues about the Gores' lifestyle.**
- **"New" Boston-made furnishings for the guest chamber to interpret that room with authenticity.**
- **A prominent new pasture for our sheep to showcase our agrarian story in a more visible spot.**

At the annual volunteer supper in January, I had a chance to speak with many of our fine volunteers. We could not accomplish what we do without their help! In fact, volunteer Lorna Keith told me that Gore Place is altogether more visible than ever before. She is very pleased. I agree with Lorna and I encourage you to join us in spreading the word far and wide about our wonderful museum. We're humble enough to say we honestly can use your help; we genuinely appreciate it!

*Sincerely,*

Thomas Thaler

## NEWS FROM YOUR DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Museums solicit restricted and unrestricted contributions. Special projects supported by restricted contributions are very exciting. However, it is the unrestricted contributions given through our Annual Fund that keeps our doors open and our staff paid! Thanks to the Annual Fund, we were able to purchase security cameras that alerted Farmer Scott when someone was trying to steal special logs from our Nature Playscape for firewood. And, thanks to the Annual Fund, staff in the mansion can now speak by telephone to the carriage house welcome center rather than using a walkie-talkie or carrier pigeon!

**Please remember to support our Annual Fund! We enclose an envelope with this newsletter. Thank you.**

### BEQUESTS AND PLANNED GIVING

Remembering Gore Place in your will, trust or through an annuity is one of the most meaningful ways you can contribute to the long-term health of our organization.

For more information, please contact Susan Robertson, Executive Director, at 781-894-2798.

## A Star-Spangled Conflict

At Waltham's First Parish on July 23, 1812, Reverend Samuel Ripley preached a fiery anti-war sermon in reply to President Madison's declaration of war against Great Britain. Ripley said that since the British had not attacked America the war was not defensive but offensive and thus, unjust. Without naming Republicans, he blamed that party: The "present calamities," he declared, resulted from "ignorance, error, immorality, & party spirit."

Ripley, like his friend and parishioner Christopher Gore, was a Federalist. They were opposed to war with Britain because it would impact trade, a vital part of New England economy. But not all of Ripley's parishioners agreed with him. Many were offended, especially workers at the new cotton mill who thought that business would grow if British imports were eliminated.

The following April, unhappy parishioners petitioned Town Meeting to remove Ripley. Meeting minutes record "considerable debate" after which a motion to give petitioners "permission to withdraw their petition" passed 70-53. Ripley remained minister for thirty-nine years.

It is believed that Mr. Gore used his influence to save his minister's job. That Gore came to the aid of Ripley is no surprise. Not only did the two men know and respect each other, Ripley's father, Reverend Ezra Ripley, Concord's minister, was Gore's college friend. Neither Gore nor Ripley seems to have left comment on the incident, but perhaps we can read gratitude into this: Samuel Ripley named his first son Christopher Gore Ripley.

Some who knew Ripley attributed his difficulties to a volatile temperament. Passions may have played a part, but Ripley was not alone in preaching on the war. There were hundreds of anti-war and pro-war sermons during the War of 1812, reflecting the country's division. The case of Reverend Ripley provides a view into this nationwide party bitterness that some thought might lead to civil war.

By Diann Ralph Strausberg, Archival Researcher



Portrait of Reverend Samuel Ripley

Courtesy of The First Parish in Waltham



Reverend Ripley's church, The First Parish Meeting House in Waltham, where Christopher Gore was a parishioner.

Courtesy of The First Parish Of Waltham

### The Clamor of Controversy, continued from page 1

of the General Court and his property seized. The Court treated any property of a Loyalist as if the owner had died and houses and places of business were sold or leased with the money going into the state treasury. For those whose properties were sold, there was little recourse. Perhaps because of Samuel's and Christopher's connections to the Patriot cause, John Gore's property was not sold but rather leased.

Christopher and Samuel successfully pleaded with the Court to recoup something from their father's loss. In a letter to his father dated May 18, 1779, Christopher writes of a resolution passed by the House of Representatives earlier that month recouping the cost of supporting their mother and sisters. Gore wrote,

*"Which resolve, as I conceive the sense of it, will eventually preserve the estate from forfeiture—we are the only family to have met with any favor this way—and when I consider the real, the rage of debtor prison which is so characteristic of America I must confess that they have been kind beyond my most sanguine expectation... But I do conceive from the novel temper which they have discovered in answering our petition, that they do not mean at present to confiscate your property..."*

But they were unable, at that time, to affect their father's return. Regarding this, Christopher continues,

*"There has not as yet been such sentiments of Philanthropy discovered in the House of Representatives as would justify our proffering a petition for that which we most ardently desire, viz. Your return to this country."*

However Christopher goes on to assure his father that few in Boston would object to

John's returning should the situation change. He writes,

*"Indeed I could venture to affirm that upon a peace there will be no Objection to your return."*

Nearly a decade would pass before the General Court would allow John Gore to return. When he was finally reunited with his family, his wife, Frances, and his daughter, Sara, were dead and he was stripped of property, reputation and citizenship. It was only the patriotism of his sons that brought him home. Claims against his property were finally dropped in 1784, he regained his citizenship in 1787 and he died quietly in Boston in 1797 after a decade of "desolation and mischief" wrought by the "Clamor of Controversy."

By Thom Roach, Director of Programs and Interpretation.





**Leicester Longwool sheep on the farm at Gore Place. We hope you will visit us to see our new sheep in their new pasture.**

Credit: Photo by Eric Workman | TMP Images

## Get to Know our New Flock!

We are excited to welcome our new flock of Leicester Longwool sheep to our farm! Leicester Longwools are a historic breed developed in the 1700s in England. These sheep have coarse, curly and lustrous long-staple wool, favored by many hand spinners. We are a new member of the Leicester Longwool Sheep Breeding Association based at Colonial Williamsburg, and one of only a handful of farms in New England raising this rare breed of sheep.

We have seven registered Leicester Longwool sheep at our farm. That number will grow over time as we raise and register new sheep. Raising Leicester Longwools is different than raising modern sheep breeds. Leicester Longwools do not easily digest today's grain and instead prefer a diet of hay and pasture for grazing. These sheep also need ample lush pasture to thrive, leading us to install the new north pasture this spring which will give them more room to graze.

Leicester Longwools are recognized by the Livestock Conservancy. There are less than 200 animals registered each year nationwide. The breed is considered "threatened" on the Conservancy's Conservation Priority List. We are proud to increase the presence of this rare breed of sheep in the United States.

Why did we choose Leicester Longwool sheep? Based on our research of written records of Mr. Gore's agricultural activities, we know that Mr. Gore raised sheep on his farm but we do not know exactly what breed. Christopher Gore wrote a letter to his friend, Rufus King, about his visit to the estate of Robert Bakewell (1725–1795) in Leicestershire, England in 1799. Bakewell was a famous agriculturalist and developed the Leicester Longwool breed. Because of this letter in which Mr. Gore described seeing the sheep and feeling the lustrous wool, we believe it is likely the Leicester Longwool breed would have made their home on the Gore farm.

## Tot Time at the Nature Playscape: Fun and Exploration

We have two outdoor programs for very young children at Gore Place: Tot Time on the Farm and Tot Time at the Nature Playscape. Children and their caregivers explore the farm and the outdoors through directed play while having fun at the same time. Tot Time on the Farm started in 2013. It was originally for 2 year olds with 10 children per session and it was so wildly successful that there was a waitlist. In 2017, we developed the Nature Playscape to create a similar program focused on nature and expanded the age range to 1.5–6 year olds with 15 children per session.

The Nature Playscape is a shaded outdoor play area located at the northwest corner of the estate. The soft chip play area has benches and a variety of natural elements for imaginary play. A log can be a balance beam and a stump can be a table. The adjoining north lawn provides a flat, grassy space to extend activities beyond the shady grove. The Nature Playscape attracts families daily even when there is no scheduled program.

The Tot Time at the Nature Playscape program builds on open-ended elements with invitations to play and provocations for critical thinking about STEAM concepts for 1.5–6 year olds. An example of an invitation is using playdough and feathers to create sculptures. An example of

a provocation is using rocks, blocks, and pinecones to decide which makes a suitable stacking material to build a tower. Recently, a favorite provocation discovery was that corks and pinecones roll down the rock slab in different ways: pinecones make an arc while corks travel in a straight line!

The activities blend seasonal nature themes with developmental needs for small children. The interests of the children guide the direction of the session. For example, cutting yarn to wrap around pinecones becomes a huge focus to practice new skill for those who have not used scissors.

Another day, three children who had never met collaborated on making mud pies. A whole new experience for them! This is learning through play!

**A "frog" chalk creation at a recent Tot Time at the Nature Playscape**





Photo by Eric Workman | TMP Images

The floral design by Nancy Bates, on display in the Maid's Room, won 1st place in last year's show!

## BE INSPIRED: A CELEBRATION OF FLORAL DESIGN

June 14, 15 and 16, 2018

See Gore Place in a new way during our 3rd annual celebration with beautiful floral designs throughout the Gore mansion. Visitors can vote on their favorites with awards given to the top three designs.

Our elegant dinner dance, Spring into Summer, will be on Friday, June 15 with the music of Bo Winiker. The evening will start with cocktails in the mansion so that guests may view the floral designs. Reservations required.

The design show is open to all floral-minded artists, garden club members, horticultural students, gardeners, and professional and novice designers. This is NOT a juried show. Join our show as a floral designer! Visit [goreplace.org/be-inspired/](http://goreplace.org/be-inspired/) to enter.



## ADD PERENNIALS TO YOUR GARDEN!

### Annual Gore Place Plant Sale

Friday-Saturday, May 11-12 from 8 am to 3 pm

Sunday, May 13 from 8 am to 12 noon

Seeking perennials or heirloom tomatoes for your garden? Look no further than the Gore Place Plant Sale! Our farmer, Scott Clarke, will be there to share his knowledge of our large selection of plants. The sale will feature many varieties of hard-to-find hybrid and heirloom tomatoes, heirloom annuals, herbs, and beautiful perennials!

## ERRATA

We apologize for the following errors in the 2017 Annual Report: Stephen and Virginia White were left off the Annual Fund \$2500 & above section, Beth Hagopian was incorrectly listed as Virginia, and the name of Stewart Woodward's wife, Dianne O'Donoghue, was misspelled.

## Noteworthy

### Collections and Acquisitions

Excitement is building around the mansion bedchamber restoration project! The 20th century wallpaper in the chamber has been removed revealing evidence of a possible wallpaper installation technique that has not been seen before at Gore Place. Paint analysis of the trim and floors is now completed. Working from a furnishing plan, an English bed step with a bidet and several important pieces of Thomas Seymour furniture have been purchased: a bedstead, a dressing chest and a set of chairs. Next steps include painting the woodwork and fabricating a cornice and tester for the bed. The furnishing plan for this room was supported by a grant from The National Trust for Historic Preservation.

### The 540 Campaign at Gore Place

This capital campaign to complete important campus-wide improvements for accessibility and interpretation is underway. Although we have raised more than half of the funds required, we must seek additional contributions if we are to finish. Mansion project activities are an access ramp, a first floor restroom, an interpretive video, and the reinstallation of two Gore-era staircases. Outdoor project activities are pasture fencing as well as exterior restoration and improved drainage at the 1835 farmer's cottage. Contributions for this campaign should be sent to Susan Robertson, Gore Place, 52 Gore Street, Waltham, MA 02453.

### 18th Century Concert

Pleasure Gardens of London—a 30th Anniversary Celebration Concert at Gore Place, Sunday, September 23, 2018, 3 pm.

A re-creation of the outdoor musical entertainments presented in 18th century England. The concert features songs and instrumental music of T. Arne, J. C. Bach, Handel and others, performed on period instruments. This free event is offered in celebration of the 30th anniversary of The Musicians of the Old Post Road. Limited seating.

### Are You Planning a Party?

Remember us when you are planning your next catered event. Our authentically restored 1793 Carriage House holds up to 125 guests and is available year-round with modern accessible bathrooms, air conditioning and heat. The building is also equipped with tables, chairs and Wi-Fi. Please call Linda DeFranco at 781-894-2798 x11 to make your arrangements.



Photo by Maureen Cotton Photography

## Upcoming Programs—Join Us!

### Indoor, Front-Carry Babywearing Tour

April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7,  
September 4, 10 am

### Moonlight Tours

April 6 and 20, May 4 and 18, June 1  
and 22, July 6 and 20, August 3 and 17,  
September 7 and 21, 7:30 pm

### Tot Time at the Nature Playscape

April 9, May 9, June 13, July 11, August  
8, September 12, 10 am

### Concerts in the Carriage House

April 24, May 8, June 12 and 26, July 24,  
August 14 and 28, September 11 and  
25, 7:30 pm

### Gore Place Sheepshearing Festival

Saturday, April 28, 10 am to 5 pm

Visit [goreplace.org](http://goreplace.org) for details and to purchase tickets online.

### Annual Plant Sale

May 11 and 12, 8 am to 3 pm;  
May 13, 9 am to 12 noon

### Tot Time at the Farm

May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15,  
September 19, 10 am

### Be Inspired: A Celebration of Floral Design

June 14, 15 and 16, times vary

### Puppet Workshop and Show

July 15 and 22, 12 noon

### Archery Classes

July 16, 23 and 30, August 6, 6:30 pm

### Corn Roasts

August 10, 17 and 24, 5 to 7 pm

## At the Painter's Arms on Queen Street



John Gore's shop sign,  
from the collection of  
the Bostonian Society.

The years leading up to the American Revolution made great demands upon the citizens of Boston. Compare John Gore's advertisements in *The Massachusetts Gazette*:

In March 1761, John Gore touts his imported goods in an ad for his paint shop:

LATELY, Imported from LONDON by  
John Gore, Painter.  
*And Sold cheap for Cash, at the Painter's  
Arms in Queen Street, VIZ.*

In response to the Stamp Act and the Intolerable Acts of 1765–67, there was a boycott of all British imports. For a merchant like Gore, non-compliance could prove dangerous.

By December 1769, John Gore downplays any connection to Britain:

*All the above is the Produce & Manufacture of North-America.  
At the same Place may be had,  
An Assortment of Colours, imported before  
The Agreement of the Merchants for Non-Importation took Place.*

By March 1776, John Gore had fled to England.



FIFTY ACRES & THREE CENTURIES

52 GORE STREET  
WALTHAM, MA 02453