



GORE PLACE

THE AGRARIAN

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IN MEMORIAM

With sadness, we note the passing in May 2023 of Elizabeth Upthegrove Cheek, known to all as Betsy, wife of Gore Place's former Governor and long-time friend Richard Cheek. Richard says she greatly enjoyed participating as an Angel in the annual "A December Evening," as well as supporting the initiatives of the Collection Committee, especially the effort to reproduce the original wallpaper.

SOCIAL MEDIA MOMENT



Siobhan Rae McIlhenny, @shayrae1216 on Instagram

Guests at our Jane Austen Holiday Tea, December 2023.



Collection of Gore Place Society. Photo by Eric Workman | TMP Images.

A close-up of the elegant suit that Gore wore as a diplomat to England. When he wore it for an American 4th of July, he outraged his political opponents.

Style vs. Mobs in the 1810 Election

by Diann Ralph, Historian

Once the legislature closed its June session in 1809, Massachusetts Governor Christopher Gore could take time off. In July he and his wife Rebecca traveled the 200 miles from their Waltham country house to Ballston Spa, New York—famous for its mineral waters—for a week-long stay at the elegant Sans Souci Hotel.

Gore found the waters "particularly pleasing" and the accommodations better than similar places he'd seen in Europe. Rebecca wanted to stay longer. Even so, Gore cut short their visit. "My engagement," he said, "calling me away."¹

After just three days, they were back on the road, headed for Pittsfield, the seat of Berkshire County in western Massachusetts. The Gores would travel the length of the county, campaigning for his reelection in 1810. This mostly rural county had never seen anything like it—a new way of electioneering.

Gore, a Federalist, was entering Republican* territory. Elected governor in 1809 with 51% of the statewide vote, he lost Berkshire County with only 44%. His opposition, the Jeffersonian Republicans, predicted that this trip would doom Massachusetts Federalists and Gore's chances for reelection the following April.

Appearing a Gentleman

One sign of trouble came early in the trip west. After the Gores passed through Worcester, the town's *Massachusetts Spy* reported that the Governor's "appearance and style were those of a Gentleman." Seeing this, they told readers, "lessens our astonishment at the furious opposition the democrats have made to him."

Gore's style did indeed feed the "furious opposition." Shortly after the Gores left Worcester, *The National Aegis*, a pro-Republican paper, proved the point, with this:

OUR BRITISH GOVERNOR!

Gov. Gore on the 4th inst. when hypocritically celebrating American Independence, *appeared in a full suit of the British court dress!* What a soul-rending spectacle must this have been to the surviving heroes of the revolution! To see the Chief Magistrate of this "cradle of liberty" rigged out in the ridiculous habit of that Court which enslaved us—and this on the anniversary of our freedom! What an everlasting scandal to the Commonwealth!

Style vs. Mobs in the 1810 Election is continued on page 4

*Thomas Jefferson's Republican Party. Today often called the Democratic-Republicans by historians. When not capitalized, democratic or republican usually refers to a political philosophy and not to a political party, although philosophy and party can be linked, as here in 1809, when Federalists fear that Republicans are too democratic.





GORE PLACE

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMERITA

- Susan Robertson



Credit: Eric Workman | TMP Images

Letter from Our Board President

Dear Friends of Gore Place,

In this issue of *The Agrarian*, we travel back to the summer of 1809, when Christopher and Rebecca Gore toured western Massachusetts on his gubernatorial re-election campaign. "Getting out the vote" in 1809 differed from 2024, but campaigning in the two periods shared some similarities: a two-party system (Gore's Federalists vs. Jefferson's Democratic-Republicans), a polarized electorate, and a high-stakes election for the Commonwealth's future. The Gores' western Massachusetts trip was considered a campaigning innovation; however, his reception was not very warm.

If you need a respite from this election season, please consider visiting Gore Place. We have a busy schedule of warm-weather activities ahead. (Spring is truly coming, as my flowering witch hazels prove!) Don't miss our 37th annual Sheepshearing Festival on April 27, Farmer Scott's Heirloom Tomato Plant Sale in May, or our Spring into Summer party on June 5. We offer many programs for all ages year-round, and our grounds are open daily free of charge.

When you visit, we hope you will get to meet Gavin Kleespies, Gore Place's new Executive Director. Learn more about Gavin in his welcome letter, "Building on a Strong Foundation," on page 3 of this issue of *The Agrarian*.

Your "vote" for Gore Place can take many forms: attending a program, making a donation, becoming a member, and telling a friend about us. Your support helps us thrive, and we thank you.

With best wishes for the spring season,

Debbie Gates

Interim President, Board of Governors

Farmer Scott's Heirloom Tomato Plant Sale

On-site at the Farm at Gore Place

May 17 through May 19, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fill your garden with vegetable transplants, locally grown on the Farm at Gore Place. Choose from many varieties of hard-to-find heirloom and hybrid tomatoes, as well as peppers, eggplants, and herbs. No online sales this year—join us in person!

OUR PLANTS ARE SPECIAL!

- Locally-grown by Farmer Scott right here at the Farm at Gore Place
- Many hard-to-find varieties
- Ready to transplant and grow in your garden



PLAN YOUR GARDEN!

View our plant list
at goreplace.org



Credit: Photo by Eric Workman | TMP Images.

BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

Dear Friends,

Since the beginning of January I've worked at Gore Place and each day I am amazed by the beauty of the site. As the new Executive Director, I am honored to join this community. Every day, as I walk along the grounds and approach the Palladian Mansion, I have the opportunity to look at the open fields, the copse of trees, and, of course, the sheep. It is remarkable that this bucolic New England scene exists within greater Boston.

The more I have learned about Gore Place, the more I have been impressed. The staff are smart and creative, handling everything from hosting field trips to birthing lambs. The Board of Governors represents a remarkable depth of knowledge. Of course, following in Susan Robertson's footsteps is a humbling experience. Her tenure spanned over three decades and saw the long and steady restoration of the Mansion and grounds, ambitious capital projects undertaken and accomplished, and the building of traditions and a great expansion of public awareness. Susan has helped to shape every part of the institution, and we will celebrate her for years to come.

I have been working at public history organizations for over 25 years. After finishing my master's degree at the University of Chicago, I was the Executive Director of the Mount Prospect Historical Society while my partner, Gabriel, finished her PhD. There, I faced the challenge of convincing residents that their town had a history. In suburban Illinois, many felt that American history had taken place in the cities and along the coasts; convincing people that their town had valuable stories to tell required patiently and persistently building relationships within the community.

Following our time in Chicago, my partner and I moved to Massachusetts where I became the Executive Director of the Cambridge Historical Society. Cambridge is not a community that questions the value of its history; however, it is a complex and diverse community where there are many different stories. A challenge was getting outside of the grand house on Brattle Street and making the historical society a resource for residents across the city. We held events in every neighborhood and worked to build relationships with businesses, organizations, and communities across the city, taking CHS from an aloof organization to a community resource.

Following the birth of my son, Otto, I shifted to working as the Director of Programs, Exhibitions, and Community Partnerships for the Massachusetts Historical Society. MHS is the first historical society in America, dating back to 1791 and is famous for its archival collections. My charge was to expand the audience beyond researchers. In the nine years I was there, I hosted over 500 programs, increased attendance by 330%, and won three national awards. I also used technology to reach digital audiences on six continents and in over 1,000 American towns.

Now I have arrived at Gore Place, optimistic that the challenges I have faced in the past will give me tools to approach the unique issues of a 200-year-old mansion and farm. I believe in building partnerships, embracing the distinct and diverse populations of greater Boston, and expanding Gore Place to be a leading cultural institution for New England. I am proud to build on the foundations created by Susan and the staff and excited to lead Gore Place into its next chapter.

Gavin Kleespies

Style vs. Mobs in the 1810 Election continued from page 1

Gore had observed the 4th of July in a suit worn first for his 1803 appearance as an American diplomat to England. News of the suit “scandal”—first printed in Boston’s *Independent Chronicle*, then in Worcester, and later in Pittsfield—followed him west.

The suit story supported Republicans’ anti-Gore talking points: he was too pro-British and too aristocratic to represent farmers and other working men. Gore, they claimed, would not uphold American republican ideals—like their party’s ethos of republican simplicity. Perhaps he even wanted a monarchy again.

Attacks like these were not unusual. Political parties in Gore’s time “reached unexpected and unprecedented levels of partisanship and rancor.”² The fiercely partisan newspapers of the day helped make that true.

In Boston, for instance, the pro-Republican *Independent Chronicle* attacked Gore without end as he campaigned for governor. Calling him “Kit,” a nickname he really disliked, they mocked his “aristocratic” ways, including his love of high-end carriages: “Whose carriage is that, that rolls so majestically through the streets, decked in scarlet and gold? One might as well elect the Duke of York.” *The Chronicle* got under his skin. He complained to friend Rufus King of “its malignant and lying spirit.” If only its publishers were “favored with some respect for truth, [and] a little reason.”

Were attacks on style merely superficial, as some complained? Without doubt, more substantial issues were on voters’ minds. The country is “fast approximating to a serious and gloomy crisis,” *The Boston Patriot* warned. The partisan divide on major issues, like the economy and a likely war with Great Britain, meant election stakes were high. Yet, style mattered as a symbol of the fundamental ideas dividing the two parties, ideas about policy and what an American nation should be. “Style was substance.”³

For Gore, and other Federalist elites, their gracious manners, sophisticated tastes, and beautiful possessions were outward signs of a desirable inner refinement created through a man’s education, experiences, and self-made character. Such men were a “natural aristocracy” based on merit and meant to lead.

Republicans, on the other hand, looked to eliminate hierarchies and open the political process to more Americans. Their president Thomas Jefferson liked to “dress down” to



Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Pittsfield’s Park Square, the town common with its big elm tree, where supporters welcomed the Gores and his opponents protested.

show republican simplicity and solidarity with the common man. Like Gore, he created something of a suit scandal. When the English diplomat Anthony Merry arrived at Monticello for the first time, President Jefferson answered the door, wearing a plain, old, brown suit, and bedroom slippers. Merry considered this behavior an insult to himself and to England.

Gore was not about to change his clothes or carriages for Republican votes; his style was a sign of his qualifications.

Our Hot-Blooded Jacobins

Arriving from Ballston on July 27, Gore’s entourage rolled into Pittsfield. The town’s pro-Republican *Sun* painted the scene: “The governor is genteelly dressed, rides in a fine coach, drawn by four elegant English horses, attended by foreign servants in livery.”

After dinner Gore met townspeople and as evening came, was honored with an illumination created by candles and lamps burning in all the windows of all the houses and shops around the public square. About 11 p.m. Gore retired to a private house on the square, where he and Rebecca spent the night. As the lights went out, everyone headed home, and “all appeared peaceful and quiet,” the pro-Federalist *Berkshire Reporter* later wrote. The town had “joyfully” welcomed the Gores in a style fitting for the couple’s “merits.”

Around midnight came another kind of greeting. Over a dozen men, some carrying torches, were tramping across the square,

hooting and hollering and carrying two effigies on rails, with at least one of those straw-stuffed human forms labeled “Gore.” The other was likely labeled “Thomas Selfridge,” another hated Federalist.⁴ From a revered old elm, near where the Gores slept, the men hung one effigy. The second they burned. Next, “our hot-blooded Jacobins,” as the Federalists named them, pounded on the door of a nearby tavern until the sleepy owner opened for a celebratory round of grog.

Early in the morning, the Gores left to visit towns south. We don’t know how they felt about the midnight mob, but his next step suggests that Gore was not intimidated.

The Bell Tolls

Two days later, in grand style, Gore returned from Stockbridge. All along the way carriages and men on horseback joined in the parade. At Pittsfield the local militia roared out a 17-gun, cannon salute to welcome the governor. Federalists hosted a grand dinner for 116 guests, among them prominent names like Nathan Appleton of Boston and the local magistrate Judge Sedgwick. This event was likely the “engagement” Gore had made on his way to Ballston that changed his vacation plans.

A success for Federalists, the day was marred only by one incident. When the parade had first entered Pittsfield, from the square the meeting house bell tolled—not a pleasant ringing but rather, the slow, continuous, muffled, and mournful sound of a single bell, commonly used to announce deaths and funerals—a tolling

meant for Gore. Hearing this, a few young men rushed from the parade, broke open the meeting house door, and captured the two teenage boys responsible. The boys begged not to be whipped, for the adults had made them do it.

Changing Fashions

After a few more stops out west—with more parades, 17-gun salutes, and dinners—Christopher and Rebecca were back in Waltham on August 5. “Excepting more bustle & parade than was agreeable,” Gore said, “our tour was very pleasant.”⁵ Perhaps he could overlook the unpleasant events on Pittsfield Square and the opposition to his visit, but the newspapers would not.

For several weeks, Pittsfield’s *Berkshire Reporter* and *Sun* newspapers battled over Gore’s trip. *The Sun* approved and applauded the protests on the square. *The Reporter* decried the “rabble” who hung effigies and tolled bells, and attacked “decency, order, and decorum.” These actions, in the paper’s opinion, made clear the “real spirit” of populist, radical Republicans, influenced by radical French revolutionaries. When the newspaper discovered and printed their names, the list included *The Sun*’s printer, Asaph Brown, a leader of the midnight riot. *The Sun* threatened to sue *The Reporter*.

Did Republicans fear the governor’s appearance in the west? Yes, Federalists claimed, Republicans knew that once voters met the amiable, moderate Mr. Gore, they would no longer believe the Republican press, no longer accept that Gore was “an overbearing, haughty aristocrat,” who held the “lower classes” unworthy of his attention. His appearance would change minds.

Republicans disagreed. *The Sun* argued that Gore may have visited taverns, shopkeepers, and innkeepers, he may have “bowed, and



Gore’s sporty Pony Phaeton, an example of his taste for fine carriages.

Gore’s Pony Phaeton, circa 1825. Gore Place Collection.

smiled and shook hands and toasted and drank health,” but it was all an act. Voters would see through this performance and not be deceived. Worcester’s *National Aegis* agreed: “Not a single vote does he gain next spring by such shallow maneuvers.”

The Sun sarcastically summed up Gore’s new style of campaigning: “Fashions Change. The old-fashioned way of securing the esteem of electors, by merit and modesty, is going out of use, and a new and improved method is coming into vogue. . . the latest European improvements.” *The Aegis* wrote that he “forgets he is among Americans.”

As the April election approached, newspapers filled with intense calls to support or reject the candidates. A Gore supporter stressed the vast divide between political parties, the dramatic choices facing voters, and the national implications. “This is no ordinary election. It is not a question merely between Christopher Gore and Elbridge Gerry [Gore’s Republican opponent], but it is the struggle of virtuous principles against foreign influence and domestic ruin. . . the very existence of the United States and the Constitution is at stake.”

Election

On April 2, 1810, Elbridge Gerry won. From 91,000 votes cast statewide, Gore lost 48.5% to Gerry’s 51.3%. Gore’s vote count fell by almost 4,000 compared to his 1809 win, while Gerry earned 1,400 more votes than the previous Republican candidate.

In Berkshire County, where Gore campaigned, Republicans improved. Gerry won 57.9% of the vote, up from the 55.7% for Republicans in 1809. The county voted 2,001 for Gore and 2,750 for Gerry. In Pittsfield, the focus of Gore’s trip, Gerry won with 297 votes to Gore’s 153, raising the republican share to 66% from 63% in 1809.

It was a big win. Not only did Republicans gain the governorship and a majority in the House of Representatives, they could claim an end to the 1809 resurgence of Federalism that Gore as Governor had reflected. Addressing defeated Federalists, a Worcester paper bragged, “You have now come to the end . . . stripped of power which you thought was secured to you last year for your inheritance.”

Did Gore’s electioneering trip make a difference? Two hundred years later, with the little data we have, it’s difficult to judge. Clearly, his trip did not earn a victory. It may, however, have succeeded in other ways. His trip can be seen

as a “get out the vote” campaign for Federalists. *The Sun* described it as “a triumphant display of party victory, calculated to insult and irritate the minority, and thus increase the bitterness of the party.” While at times, Gore had voiced hopes for ending party bitterness, aspects of his trip certainly were aimed at inspiring Federalists. Of course, controversy over the trip may have motivated the Republican base, as well.

The trip may have reinforced the Republican strategy of attacking “style,” because the debate continued up to and beyond election day. Only a week before the election, and eight months after the 4th of July reporting, a Gore supporter deemed the court suit a problem to address. Writing “Governor Gore’s Clothes” for the *Worcester Spy*, the author explained why the suit was appropriate and made fun of those whom it had offended: “The democrats, for want of faults in Governor Gore’s character, have decided to poke holes in his clothes. . . and claim they smell of aristocracy.”

Following the election, pro-Republican writers criticized the outgoing governor and continued to poke fun at his style. In a subtle way, Boston’s *Independent Chronicle* dropped a hint of “suit controversy” in its reporting on the State House swearing-in ceremony for the new governor Elbridge Gerry and lieutenant governor William Gray. In an otherwise straightforward report, without partisan attacks, they inserted that Gerry and Gray both arrived for the ceremony “dressed in full suits of American manufacture.”

ENDNOTES

1. Christopher Gore to Rufus King, Waltham, August 15, 1809, Rufus King Papers, New York Historical Society #95.
2. David Waldstreicher, “Federalism, the Styles of Politics, and the Politics of Style,” in Doron Ben-Atar and Barbara B. Oberg, eds., *Federalists Reconsidered* (Charlottesville: U of Virginia Press, 1998) 100.
3. Andrew Siegel, “Steady Habits’ under Siege: The Defense of Federalism in Jeffersonian Connecticut,” in Ben-Atar and Oberg, 199.
4. Pittsfield Republicans claimed Gore was wrong to defend Thomas Selfridge, a Federalists lawyer, against charges of manslaughter for an 1806 incident in which Selfridge shot and killed Republican Charles Austin. Gore won the acquittal. Reports mentioned the Selfridge trial as a Republican justification for the effigy incident.
4. Christopher Gore to Rufus King, Waltham, August 15, 1809, King Papers, New York Historical Society #95.

NEWSPAPERS CITED

Berkshire Reporter (Pittsfield, MA), *Boston Patriot* (Boston, MA), *Independent Chronicle* (Boston, MA), *Massachusetts Spy* (Worcester, MA), *National Aegis* (Worcester, MA), *Old Colony Gazette* (New Bedford, MA), *Pittsfield Sun* (Pittsfield, MA), *Repertory* (Boston, MA)

Fit for a King

by Thom Roach, Director of Interpretation

It's 1803 and you are the highest ranking American diplomat in the U.K. The U.S. ambassador has been recalled, and you are now *chargé d'affaires* until the new man arrives. Etiquette requires you be presented at court to the king and queen. What do you wear?

This was the situation facing Christopher Gore when his good friend and fellow Federalist Rufus King was replaced by Jefferson-appointed James Monroe. But it was mid-May and Monroe would not arrive until August. Gore would stand in his stead.

What to wear was not a tough decision. The style of court dress was prescribed by tradition, down to the color of the coat worn by each country's representatives, making it easier to keep track of who was conspiring with whom. The style was formal and conservative. The coat, waistcoat, and breeches, all heavily

embroidered, harkened back to the 1770s when America was breaking away from the very sovereign Gore was to meet, King George III. Embroidered in France and tailored in London, Gore's exquisite suit displayed the considerable skills of the craftspeople who created it. Two centuries later, it is in remarkably good shape.

Every detail has been captured in a new series of photographs by our official photographer, Eric Workman of TMP Images. An overcast day provided the perfect natural lighting for the shoot. Eric spent hours documenting every detail of Gore's suit, from the floral embroidery of the waistcoat to the covered wood buttons and silver buckles at the knees of the breeches.

Gore's court suit came to the Collection through the generosity of several collateral descendants of Christopher Gore.

In the future, we hope to house the suit in a climate-controlled display case, allowing the public to enjoy this treasure of our collection. For now, you can marvel at the workmanship through the recent photos taken by Eric Workman, on our website at goreplace.org.



Staff photo.

Eric Workman photographing Gore's diplomatic court uniform. The silk coat, waistcoat, and knee breeches were a gift from collateral descendants of Christopher Gore.



SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT Jane Fogg

Jane T. N. Fogg is the newest member of the Christopher and Rebecca Gore Legacy Society.

Asked why she joined, Jane said, "I want to leave a lasting impression on this institution I really care about."

Jane's grandfather William Henry Nichols fostered her early interest in philanthropy. An immigrant from Canada, Mr. Nichols started the W.H. Nichols Company in his basement in 1904. The company made machine tools and experienced significant growth during World War II.

Like many philanthropists of his day, Mr. Nichols gave anonymously. He bought Christopher Gore's billiard table from the Waltham Country Club in the 1920s. After Gore Place Society was formed in 1935, the Society's leaders tried to purchase the billiard table from Mr. Nichols. He said he would not sell it, but he would instead donate the rare, 1805, Boston-built table to the museum, an important addition to the collection. Visitors can see Nichols's gift on a tour of the 1806 Gore Mansion where it is on display on the second-floor of the building.

Jane's sister, Louise Botero, introduced her to Gore Place. Since then, Jane's interest has grown, "because of the beauty and expanse of the property." She adds, "It's so important to keep these places open to the public."

Development Update

Under the leadership of Development Committee chair Kimberly Amsden, **fundraising efforts at Gore Place are expanding.** New Governors Michael Aylward, Drew Chin, and Doug Harding have joined current members Lydia Kimball, Kita Reece, and Stewart Woodward on the Committee.

Recent fundraising success has allowed Gore Place to set higher goals for the Annual Fund. At the start of March 2024, pledges and gifts totaled \$170,000 toward this year's goal of \$250,000 by June 30. An anonymous donor introduced a Valentine's Day challenge to be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$30,000. Many donors, large and small, can put Gore Place on a path to success!

Most of last year's Community Partners are continuing this year.

Stewart Woodward will lead a push to gain new partnerships in the Waltham and Watertown communities.

We will launch a membership drive in July with a focus on discussing membership importance with all visitors. We plan to reach our goal of 1,000 members.

The Christopher and Rebecca Gore Legacy Society welcomes members who wish to make a difference to the future of Gore Place. Visit goreplace.org/support for more information.

The 8TH ANNUAL SPRING INTO SUMMER PARTY

June 5, 2024

Tickets at goreplace.org

Co-chairs Drew Chin and Emily Grisct, and Hadley and Ali Powell hope to see you there!

A DECEMBER EVENING *at* GORE PLACE

DECEMBER 5, 2023



Dianne O'Donoghue and Stewart Woodward.



Lisa Ciccolo and Elaine Garnache.



Michael Carter, Charlotte Patten, Gavin Kleespies.



Robert Simonds, Betsy Powell, Gina and Steve White.



Matthew Glauninger, Julie Glauninger, Paula Stookey, Juliet Turner, Kevin Kehoe.



Lydia Kimball, Katie Barrow McGauley, Tom McGauley.



Susan Robertson and Gavin Kleespies.

Our staff, volunteers, and Board of Governors continue to accomplish great things for Gore Place, so we devote Noteworthy to these highlights.

SOCIAL MEDIA MOMENT



The Angora goats on the Farm at Gore Place.

Credit: Emily C., @cultureomnivore on Instagram



The pine board table top in the Laundry Room.

Staff photo

Our New Tent for Your Next Event

We are thrilled to announce a major facility upgrade which will benefit programs and event rentals: a new tent! This three-season, clear-span structure is manufactured and installed by Grandchamp Structure Design. The new tent has a higher ceiling than the previous model and there are no interior columns, allowing clients to design the event of their dreams. Our new tent measures 50 feet by 80 feet (space to host a seated reception for up to 225 guests) and features elegant lighting and a gorgeous flagstone floor. The tent will be available for private event rentals, including weddings, corporate events, and other social gatherings from April through October.

Meet Our New Farm Educator

The newest member of our education team is Leah Kotok. Leah recently completed a Master's degree in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University and holds a Master's in Environmental Education from the University of New Hampshire. She is thrilled to be able to draw on her love of nature, history, and museums in her new capacity at Gore Place.

Turning the Tables

As many wonderful objects as we have on display in the mansion, many more are safely tucked away. This 19th-century, pine board table top was a gift from early benefactor Helen Bowditch Patterson. Long in storage, it's time to let it shine! At just over five feet wide and ten feet long, the table is a great addition to our Servants Hall-Laundry Room interpretation.

Recent Grant Awards

Thank you to the following funders for their support of our school and educational programs during the 2023-2024 school year:

- Watertown Savings Bank and the Watertown Local Cultural Council contributed to the "This is Gore Place!" field trips which will benefit over 200 third graders in the Watertown Public Schools.
- The Waltham Local Cultural Council contributed to funding "The Federal Period: Shaping a Nation" field trips which will benefit up to 450 fourth and fifth graders from the Waltham Public Schools.
- The Weston Cultural Council awarded a grant for our Story Trail.
- The Weston, Waltham, and Watertown Cultural Councils receive funding from the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

New Direction

Having given the West Entry a fresh coat of paint, Director of Farm and Landscape Operations Scott Clarke was inspired to complete the makeover by bringing some rarely displayed Gore objects out of storage, including this stunning weather vane. Made of copper alloy with modern gilding, it adorned the roof of the Carriage House for two centuries. In future, a replica will take its place on the Carriage House roof. The original will remain in the West Entry to welcome our guests!



The Carriage House weather vane

Photo by Eric Workman TMP Images.



The Annual Sheepshearing Festival at Gore Place

Saturday, April 27, 2024

A New England Spring Tradition Since 1987

Details at goreplace.org