



ROAR



“Two hours before the enemy entered the city... I sent out the silver (nearly all) and velvet curtains and General Washington’s picture.”

—Dolley Payne Madison

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Direction

Feedback and Recognition

History museum professionals tend to think a lot about time, time traveling on a daily basis. We preserve the past for future generations. We connect the present to the past. We impact the future with decisions we make today. The events of the past cannot be changed, but history is always changing because the questions we ask, the contexts we bring, are always changing. The inevitable passage of time provides us with memories and looking ahead in time gives us our dreams. As I look forward to the coming year, I know the Greensboro Historical Museum staff, volunteers and board will continue to reach out to our Greensboro community in new and exciting ways, making connections that sparkle and engage the community. Happy New Year!



Carol Ghiorso Hart, *Director*

I am truly honored to serve as president of the Museum in 2013. The organization owes a big debt of gratitude to my predecessor, Margaret Benjamin, who led with wisdom and passion for two busy and successful years. We will do our best to keep the positive momentum going in 2013. To start the year, the Board and museum staff will embark on a mission to bring our website and social media offerings up to the lofty standards that our bricks and mortar facility and exhibit space demand. Such virtual improvements are necessary in this day and age if we are to further our mission of telling Greensboro's dynamic story to a wider audience. More updates will follow. In the meantime, have a wonderful winter and see you at the Museum.



Jay Kirkpatrick, *President, Greensboro Historical Museum, Inc.*

Museum Guild News

Join us in the Museum Guild: we are "all about us." Our excellent meetings begin with coffee at 10, followed by the program and business at 10:30. We meet on the third Monday of the month from September through May, with the exception of January.

All members of the Greensboro Historical Museum are invited to join us. Upcoming topics include Scots in America, museum textile collection, and the role of memory in our lives. This year has also included a wonderful trip to the NC Museum of History and a holiday luncheon. To learn more, call me at 272-2438.

—Josie Gibboney

Greensboro Historical Museum, Inc.

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On the Cover

Dolley Madison dress on view in *1812: A Nation Emerges* at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C. (Image courtesy Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery)



Happenings

Of National Note

A major exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery titled *1812: A Nation Emerges*, on view June 15, 2012 through January 27, 2013, tells the story of a young country at war. It includes paintings by renowned artists and 65 loans from around the world, including Dolley's red velvet dress from the Kunkel family, part of our Madison Collection.

In a powerful and symbolic way, *1812: A Nation Emerges* brings Dolley back home to the capital city. The dress, a focal point within the exhibition, recalls Dolley's role and heroism during the British invasion of Washington in August 1814. As she wrote to her friend Mary Latrobe, "Two hours before the enemy entered the city...I sent out the silver (nearly all) and velvet curtains and General Washington's picture."

The legend that this dress was made from these White House draperies fascinates us, and we continue to look for clues. In 2012 Dr. Sunae Park Evans, chief costume conservator at the National Museum of American History, used state of the art equipment to compare a fabric sample with a swatch owned by the

National DAR Museum, also said to be from White House drapes. The fabrics didn't match, as the DAR sample wasn't velvet, encouraging further research. The empire-style dress construction has some alterations, suggesting work by a novice seamstress. No documents have been discovered that connect the red dress to the White House drapes saved from the torch of British troops. Yet, there is the captivating question of why Dolley saved this dress to the end of her life. Was it a memento, gorgeous fabric she could not part with or a treasured piece symbolizing an historic event? We may never know, but the legend does its job, for it keeps us intrigued, wanting to learn more.



Experts studied Dolley's dress after its arrival in Washington

Conserving

\$10,000 Raised for Madison Trunk

This photograph illustrates significant areas of damage and loss on nearly all exterior surfaces of the c.1820 leather trunk.

Originally acquired by the Dolley Madison Memorial Association in 1959, this leather trunk contained several hundred items from the estate of Madison descendant Neva Kunkel, including personal documents and clothing from President James Madison and his wife Dolley. Thank you to those who supported the important conservation project to clean, repair and stabilize the trunk. More than half of the \$10,000 came thanks to generous donors Charles McQueary, Greensboro Historical Museum Guild, Alice and Britt Preyer, and



a gift in memory of James T. McMichael. Other funds came from a jewelry raffle made possible by Schiffman's, plus donations from the Col. Arthur Lee Forbis and Rachel Caldwell Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Cherokee Chapter of US Daughters of 1812. The Madison trunk, a first initiative in a new *Adopt an Object* program, has been delivered to a conservator. Details on *Adopt an Object* are forthcoming, including information about ways you can support future work.

Dolley's Mementos on Exhibit

Dolley's red dress, along with a turban, this carriage trunk and a Mathew Brady daguerreotype, will be on display for a limited time this spring. Before and after conservation photographs will illustrate work accomplished in the new *Adopt an Object* program.



GREENSBORO
HISTORICAL
MUSEUM

Greensboro Historical Museum

130 Summit Avenue
Greensboro, NC 27401
Telephone (336) 373-2043

Open Tuesday - Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM
Sunday 2 PM - 5 PM
Free Admission

David and Rachel Caldwell Historical Center

3211 West Cornwallis Drive
Greensboro, NC 27410
Telephone (336) 373-3681

Open Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM
Free Admission

www.GreensboroHistory.org



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Calendar of Events

JANUARY

JANUARY IS PUZZLE MONTH IN THE MUSEUM SHOP

Buy One Puzzle, Get One Half Price

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

Museum Closed

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12 at 6 p.m.

"HARD LUCK IRONCLAD: THE RAISING OF THE USS CAIRO"

Partnership Event with the NC Civil War Roundtable
\$15 Advance Tickets Required; Contact Tommy Cole at



336.725.8797 or ctommycole@yahoo.com
Edwin C. Bearss, Chief Historian Emeritus of the National Park Service, is one of America's most renowned Civil War historians. Bearss will speak about locating and recovering the USS Cairo, a Union gunboat sunk by a Confederate torpedo on the Mississippi River.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

"1912: AN ELECTION THAT CHANGED AMERICA"

Talk by Assistant Director Matt Young

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20 from 2 – 5 p.m.

LAST DAY TO SEE "THE PRESIDENT IS HERE!"

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

Museum Offices Closed

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9 from 2 – 4 p.m.

LIFTED VOICES: OUR AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE

Costumed interpreters share stories in *Voices of a City* galleries

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18 at 10 a.m.

GUILD MEETING

"THE SCOTS AND THEIR INFLUENCE IN NC AND THE US"

David Best, Scottish Historical Society and Past President of St. Andrews. Guests welcome

MARCH

FRIDAY, MARCH 8 from 12 noon – 1:30 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Be inspired by stories of Greensboro women from three centuries. Tickets and Box Lunch \$15. Advance payment required; call 373-2982 to charge by phone.

MONDAY, MARCH 18 at 10 a.m.

GUILD MEETING

"ADMIRING AND CARING FOR FINE NEEDLEWORK"

Curator of Textiles Susan Webster
See museum treasures and learn to care for your own. Guests welcome

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 at 7 p.m.

PREVIEW PARTY

Celebrate the return of Dolley's red dress and see the newly-preserved Madison carriage trunk. Details forthcoming.

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Connecting

2012 Event Highlights



February

Greensboro alumni and friends of Dudley High School gathered to share their memories. More than two dozen Dudley alumni and staff are recalled in the *Voices of a City* exhibition.

March

Dr. Thomas (left) and Sara Sears spoke to a capacity crowd about their passion for local preservation and antiques. Their work to save rare architectural features of Guilford County's Francis Simpson House, and personal collection of Piedmont furniture and decorative arts, was featured in the March issue of *The Magazine Antiques*.



May through January 2013

The President is Coming! The President Is Here! Our research suggests 17 future, sitting and former presidents have visited Greensboro, visits shared in **two election year exhibitions**. Included in the images, maps, quotes and memorabilia—a mock presidential podium gave youngsters a chance to give their own speech.

June through August

Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings from the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum brought visitors and partnerships with Elsewhere Artists Collaborative and the Public Library.



September

2012 marked the 150th birthday of short story author O. Henry. The United States Postal Service chose the museum for its **national launch of a Forever postage stamp** in his honor. Other birthday events included a



Fun Fourth parade float, storytelling, NewBridge Bank Lecture with Elliott Engel, and 5 by O. Henry plays. Dinner with O. Henry, in partnership with O. Henry Magazine and O. Henry Hotel, was a sellout.



October

Charming ghosts at a **Moonlight Cemetery Walk** entertained nearly 600 guests.

November

At the Annual Dinner, Senior Historian and author Sidney Hart described **Dolley Madison's red dress as a showpiece in the National Portrait Gallery's 1812: A Nation Emerges** exhibition. Signed copies of the exhibition catalog are available in the Museum Shop.



December

Locally-made pottery led the way at the **2012 Dortch Endowment Event**, showcasing the work of ceramic artists Timothy Moran and Janet Gaddy of Celtic Pottery.

Collecting

2012 Acquisition Highlights

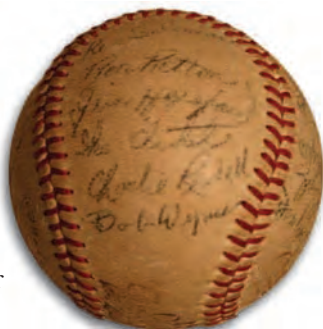
Hotel Clegg Memorabilia

The Hotel Clegg, which opened in the early 1890s and included a coffee shop, stood on South Elm Street near the railroad tracks. Today it is recalled in the *Welcome to the Gate City* exhibition. Among the new acquisitions are a 1908 Thanksgiving menu, souvenir paperweight featuring owner W. F. Clegg, sugar bowl and creamer. Other Clegg items, not shown here, include Fuller Brush merchandise from son and salesman Luther Clegg. With thanks to donors Bobbie Reeves and Mary Gay Brady.



Signed 1961 Greensboro Yankees Baseball

Player signatures are easily legible on a baseball from the local minor league team, then a New York Yankees affiliate, that played at War Memorial Stadium. With thanks to donor Jerry Smith.



Dusty Dunn's Headset

If you've listened to local radio in the past 50 years, you have heard the friendly voice of deejay Dusty Dunn, who spun records and talked to callers at local stations such as WGBG, WCOG, and WKEW. With thanks to donor Dusty Dunn.

Urn by Potter Ben Owen III

Generations of Owen and Owens have been potters in the Seagrove area. Ben III, who apprenticed with his grandfather and continued ceramic studies at ECU, described this four-handled container, marked 1999, as a lily jar. With thanks to donor Doris Tanger.