From the Executive Director's Desk

I am often asked how we are improving access to our museum and promoting education. With attendance on an upswing, we must redouble our efforts to achieve these objectives and secure our place as an active partner in the cultural life of our

The Ghost Hunters' recent investigation of Hyde Hall will do a great deal to publicize our museum to a national audience. For a week in late March of this spring, a team of thirty hard working young people set up infra-red cameras, motion detectors, and other highly sensitive equipment to prepare for a Ghost Hunters episode that will air October 30th, 2013. Stay tuned, as this program promises to explore the history of Hyde Hall and the people who lived and died here, some of whom may remain with us to this day. The Ghost Hunters Facebook page boasts over 2.6 million fans who will avidly watch this show, learning about Hyde Hall and its many interesting stories. This kind of free publicity is invaluable, and our own ghost tours will undoubtedly profit greatly

On May 11th we opened with our Mother's Day Weekend Garden Party, with a variety of fun activities and Flis Blum serving tea. A week later, on May 19th we presented our first collaboration with Glimmerglass Festival and the Fenimore Art Museum. This event, entitled "The Picturesque," offered literary readings from the Romantic Movement, an international 19th-century celebration of nature and intuition. It began with a passage from The Pioneers, an early novel by James Fenimore Cooper, whose nature writing helped to inspire the Hudson River School movement in American art. This event also featured selections from Rural Hours, by Cooper's daughter, Susan Fenimore Cooper. As a special treat, stars from Glimmerglass Festival performed musical interpretations of the age in our incomparable drawing room with its superior acoustics and stunning views of Hyde Bay. This collaboration will include future readings and musical events at Hyde Hall on June 23 and July 7, with selections from Louisa May Alcott, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, and other important American authors. Hyde Hall is especially proud to partner with Francesca Zambello of Glimmerglass Festival and Paul D'Ambrosio of the Fenimore Art Museum to showcase an artistic movement whose spirit survives as a powerful influence on American

To improve our collections and the educational benefits Hyde Hall offers to visitors, we are collaborating with members of the Historic Lighting Association and the Rushlight Club, whose members have taken a strong interest in our rare, recently restored vapor light chandeliers. On April 6th we held a reception at Hyde Hall to discuss how to become a destination for scholars of early lighting technology. The restoration of the vapor light chandeliers, completed in 2012, accomplished with funding from Douglas Kent in memory of Ashton Langdon, has greatly increased Hyde Hall's visibility and importance to those who believe there is a need for a representative collection of fully functioning period lighting. Hyde Hall is poised to become a museum environment that can serve as a guide to collectors, scholars, and all those seriously interested in material culture and 19th-century American life.

Similarly, the landscape restoration project has led to renewed interest in George Clarke's English-style picturesque landscape design. In the years since the formation of the Friends of Hyde Hall in the 1960s, the mansion complex has been the focus of restoration. With funds from a donor interested in returning Hyde Hall's immediate environment to its original appearance we have begun to direct attention to the overall design of Clarke's magnificent plan, one that places Hyde Hall in the center of a well-developed landscape that once included a dock, a boathouse, a fish pond, and a walled garden with a fountain with radiating paths. The restoration of these features remains a dream, but we are closer now to its realization thanks to donors who understand the significance of the Hyde Hall landscape design. George Clarke's picturesque park, with its varied views and wild-seeming but carefully planned arrangements of trees, was one of the first of its type in the United States and became a model for the National Park Service as we know

As part of our drive toward increasing publicity and educational opportunities at Hyde Hall, we have strengthened our partnership with the Cooperstown Graduate Program (CGP). Emily Hopkins, a firstyear CGP student, began an internship with us in January 2013 to research, plan, and implement a volunteer program tailored to fit our needs and to better serve our visitors. This internship includes the following benchmarks:

- researching museum volunteer programs and policies and determining ways volunteers can help Hyde Hall pursue its education and preservation goals
- developing a volunteer application
- creating a volunteer handbook
- developing a "How to Volunteer" feature in our
- recruiting volunteers
- working with our management team to ensure continued volunteer coordination beyond the CGP internship

We are grateful to Emily Hopkins and Dr. Gretchen Sorin, Director of the Cooperstown Graduate Program, for making this cooperative venture a

In sum, our strength and vitality as a nationally recognized historic resource depends upon our dedicated staff, an active and supportive board of directors, and a leadership that recognizes the need to expand beyond ordinary interpretation and programming. With the outreach we are now planning, we have a recipe for much improved access to the treasures of Hyde Hall and the educational opportunities that breathe life into history.

The most essential part of our success, however, is you. Your continued support will help us to create an environment that places each visitor at the center of the Hyde Hall experience and makes this incredible home a resource and refuge for all.

Porathan maney

--Jonathan Maney Executive Director, Hyde Hall, Inc.

Hyde Hall-Otsego County's Downton Abbey

The success of Downton Abbey has created a good deal of interest in life behind castle walls. Perhaps there is a little of the voyeur in all of us, particularly when we are given the opportunity to peek into the lives of those from a different place and time who appear to be living lives full of excitement and drama. Impending financial disaster, potential loss of a great family estate and a fortuitous marriage may sound like a plot line for fictional *Downton Abbey*, but it is also an important part of the very real history of Hyde Hall. If we peered inside Hyde Hall's walls around the turn of the century, what would we have seen?

In the spring of 1887 George Hvde Clarke, known to friends and acquaintances as "Hyde," was following the sheriff from room to room in Hyde Hall bidding on furniture being sold as part of the bankruptcy proceeding against his father, "Old George Clarke." Hyde used money provided by his motherin-law, Jane Carter, since he was also officially bankrupt as a result of signing notes for his father. He perhaps spent too much buying what his wife described as "old mahogany, out at the elbows," but sentiment clouded his judgment. Hyde Hall itself had also been sold and



Hyde and his wife, Mary Gale, reduced to living as tenants in the house built by his grandfather. The only hope for returning Hyde Hall to the Clarkes lay in the bankruptcy law's provision for redemption. Within a limited period of time the auctioned property could be redeemed by paying the sale price, interest and fees. Leslie Pell Clarke, Hyde's cousin, redeemed Hyde Hall and then sold it to Mary Gale, who used money from her recently deceased mother's estate. Hyde Hall had been saved for the family, now Hyde and Mary Gale focused on turning it into a

Always conscious of their limited funds, things left unfinished by Hyde's grandfather were completed, windows added, doors opened up and the kitchen refurbished. Even before repairs were completed this young, gregarious couple began inviting friends and acquaintances to share their hospitality at Hyde Hall. The most frequent guest was Louis B. Strong, affectionately called "Uncle Toby" by the family. This bon vivant bachelor spent many summers at Hyde Hall.



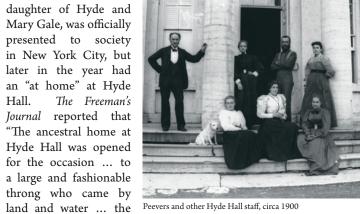
Clarke children, circa 1920s

Other guests included noted golf course architect Devereux Emmet, as well as the "Emmet girls," Ellen, Jane and Rosina, artists all.

These intimate gatherings of special friends were interspersed with more elaborate functions such as an 1898 dinner party for 24 people, including such Cooperstown luminaries as Mr. and Mrs. McKim, Edward S. Clark, Mrs. James F. Cooper and members of the Carter and

daughter of Hyde and Mary Gale, was officially presented to society in New York City, but later in the year had an "at home" at Hyde Hall. The Freeman's Journal reported that "The ancestral home at Hyde Hall was opened for the occasion ... to a large and fashionable throng who came by

In 1905 Anne Clarke,



great rooms at Hyde Hall resplendent with music, dancing and feasting until midnight." Two years later Anne's wedding reception took place at Hyde Hall, surely the social event of the season, and immortalized in numerous photographs by noted Cooperstown photographer Arthur (Putt) Telfer.

Witness to many of these events, but nearly lost to history are people such as Thomas Peevers, Annie McCarthy and Elizabeth Sauve. Thomas Peevers or simply "Peevers" to the family, served as the butler at Hyde Hall for at least 10 years. Letters indicate that, in addition to his regular duties, Peevers was sometimes called upon to package shirts for shipment



Family of George Hyde Clarke at dinner with Lewis

to Uncle Toby and to rid his suits of moths. Annie McCarthy had a less visible, but no less essential, role as a cook at Hyde Hall during the 1890's, no doubt preparing many of the meals enjoyed by the Clarkes and their friends. As part of her duties as an upstairs maid Elizabeth Sauve rekindled the fires in the bedroom stoves and heated water so the Clarkes and guests could wash upon arising. Years later she would relate to her son that the most dreaded task of all was being pressed into service to assist with serving lunch in the courtyard. Although the Clarkes appeared oblivious to them, Elizabeth was petrified of the little ring-necked snakes that would come out to sun themselves on the

Mary Gale would live until 1929, but this era in Hyde Hall history came to a premature end in 1914 when 55 year old Hyde died of stomach cancer and yet another George Hyde Clarke foregoes a career in the outside world to return to Hyde Hall and begin his unique story, a story that will span the Great Depression and both World Wars.

> --Larry Smith Tours & Collections Coordinator

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2013 Season Events and Programs

Sunday, June 23 American Romantics, 5:30pm, Tickets \$20 Sunday, July 7 American Romantics, 5:30pm, Tickets \$20

Sunday, July 14 Evening of the Arts Performance, Flis Blum interviews dancer

Tom Gold, 5:30pm, Tickets \$20

Wednesdays, July 17, 24, 31 The Haunting of Hyde Hall, 6pm and 7pm, Tickets \$10

Saturday, August 3 Hyde Hall Annual Gala, for invitation please call 607-547-5098

Sunday, August 4 Tadgell Book Signing

Wednesdays, August 7, 14 The Haunting of Hyde Hall, 6 and 7pm, Tickets \$10

Sunday, August 18 Movie Night at Hyde Hall

Saturday, October 26 Halloween Costume Party, Tickets \$50

For more information please visit www.HydeHall.org and call 607-547-5098 for tickets and reservations.





Hyde Hall needs you!

Hyde Hall welcomes volunteers of all ages, abilities and interests to support our operations in many ways: assisting at special events, organizing our exciting historical collection of documents and artifacts, maintaining the house itself, and supporting the staff with clerical work in our offices over the Visitor Center. There are now new ways to volunteer, such as serving as Junior Library Assistants or Grounds Interpreters. Volunteers at Hyde Hall become part of the home's history by being actively involved in its preservation, creating memorable experiences for visitors, and making Hyde Hall a lasting legacy for our community.





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SAVE the DATE Hyde Hall Gala: A *Downton Abbey* Evening Saturday, August 3, 2013 6:30 pm

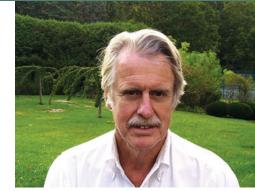


HYDE HALL Cooperstown, New York

2013 Spring Newsletter

Dear Friends of Hyde Hall:

This year promises new developments in the house and new opportunities for public events at Hyde Hall. Inspired by the popularity of *Downton Abbey*, our regular tours will be different from those of past years. We will offer a look at the staff areas--such as the kitchen, scullery, pantries, and the servants' hall—which make up fully a third of the interior space of the house. We hope this will allow visitors to understand how a house the size of Hyde Hall functioned before the introduction of labor-saving devices.



Because of the enthusiasm over and interest in the restoration of the Dining Room chandeliers, we are adding more period lamps and candlesticks to a variety of rooms and will be offering special evening tours that focus on the history, design and rapid advancement of lighting in the nineteenth century. In respect to innovative public programming, we have joined with Glimmerglass Festival and the Fenimore Art Museum in presenting a series of lectures about Romanticism in America.

A series of sketches of life at Hyde Hall in the 1890s and early twentieth century by Ellen Emmet (1875-1941), Rosina Emmet (1854-1948) and Jane Erin Emmet (1873-1961) will be on view this year. The Emmets were members of a talented and distinguished New York family that included political and business leaders as well as successful artists. Rosina became a regular illustrator for *Harper's Bazaar* and *Century Magazine* in 1891. Ellen was hired as an illustrator for *Vogue* in 1891 and for *Harper's Weekly* and *Harper's Bazaar* a year later. Many of their sketches express the sense of capturing a momentary image that was so popular in illustration at the time. We are not sure how the Emmets came to be friends of the Clarkes. They were related to Leslie Pell Clarke's wife, Henrietta Temple, and may have been introduced to Hyde Hall during a visit to the Pell Clarkes' home at nearby Swanswick. Rosina's and Jane's brother, Devereux Emmet, is thought to have designed the Otsego Golf Club on part of the Swanswick estate in 1893-4. He became one of America's foremost designers and is credited with over 160 golf courses including Cooperstown's Leatherstocking Golf Club in 1909. Another connection was through the marriage of Rosina Emmet to Arthur Sherwood, whose brother Philip was a great friend of George Hyde Clarke and began visiting Hyde Hall in 1881.

The sketches include several portraits of Mary Gale Clarke and George Hyde Clarke as well as their daughter Anne, scenes of playing cards in the Drawing Room, Lewis Barton Strong playing an upright piano, and George Hyde Clarke smoking a cigar. Ellen Emmet was a celebrated portraitist in her lifetime, winner of a number of prizes and nationally recognized for her portraits of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Augustus St. Gaudens, William James and Bishops William Lawrence and Henry Codman Potter. Her life-size oil portrait of Lewis Barton Strong hangs in the Great House dining room. Another oil portrait of George Hyde Clarke remains with the family.

With new rooms to share, new objects to see and new programs, there is a lot going on at Hyde Hall and we hope to see you all here this summer.

Gilbert T. Vincent Board President

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