In the spring of 1879, George H. Fenimore Cooper and his family returned to Hyde Hall and
acquired it from the estate of his father, the renowned American author, Captain
Ezra Conkling Cooper. The purchase occurred months after the death of Governor
Martin Van Buren, whose friendship with the Coopers had provided the connection
that eventually resulted in the acquisition of this magnificent estate.

Fenimore Cooper’s father had been a prominent
lawyer and politician, and his son was destined to follow in his footsteps.

Cooper was born in 1809 into a family of
New York State politicians and was destined to become a prominent
member of the American literary scene.

The Cooper family was known for their
philanthropic endeavors, and Cooper himself was a
founding member of the American
literary and artistic community.

In addition to his literary contributions,
Cooper was also a devoted
philanthropist, supporting a variety of charitable causes.

Cooper’s time at Hyde Hall was marked
by his dedication to preserving and promoting American
literature and culture.

The estate was originally built
by his grandfather, General James Fenimore
Cooper, who was a
prominent
member of the New York State Assembly.

In 1879, when Cooper took over the
estate, he inherited a
wealth of knowledge and experience
about this iconic
property.

Cooper’s time at Hyde Hall was marked
by his dedication to preserving and promoting American
literature and culture.

During his
residency, Cooper
was able to
support a variety of educational and cultural initiatives,
resulting in the
creation of
a number of
important
organizations.

Today, Hyde Hall
continues to
serve as a
symbol of
American
literature and
culture, perpetuating the
legacy of
one of
America’s
greatest
domestic
architects.

The estate’s
historical significance
has been
recognized
through its designation as
a National Historic Landmark,
acknowledging
its
importance in
American
cultural
history.

Cooper’s
commitment
to
preserving
this
beautiful
property
has
endured,
ensuring
that
future
generations
will
continue
to
appreciate
and
enjoy
the
rich
treasures
found
within
its
gardens,
buildings,
and
collections.

In
honour
of
Cooper’s
legacy,
Hyde
Hall
continues
to
continue
its
important
work
in
promoting
American
literature
and
culture,
upholding
the
principles
and
values
that
defined
Cooper’s
own
life.

The
estate’s
continued
success
is
a
tribute
to
Cooper’s
generosity
and
vision,
and
an
inspiration
for
future
generations
of
Americans.

Hyde
Hall
is
a
true
gem
of
the
American
landscape,
and
its
importance
will
continue
to
grow
as
it
remains
an
integral
part
of
American
literature
and
culture.
2013 Season Events and Programs

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 service areas—such as the kitchen, scullery, pantries, and the servants’ hall— that make up only a small part 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 (1854-1940) 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 1913 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 Clampses.

They were related to Louis Pell Clarke’s wife, Henrietta Temple, and may have been introduced to Hyde Hall during a visit to the Pell Clarke’s home at nearby Swanwick. Rosina’s and Jane’s brother, Devereux Emmet, is thought to have designed Devereux’s image that was so popular in illustration at the time. We are not sure how the Emmets came to be friends of the Clampses.

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