

Happy 50th, Hyde Hall!

Anyone who saw Hyde Hall in 1964 would be astonished. From near demolition to its present state as a dynamic museum and cultural center for our region, Hyde



Hall has been reborn. In the 50 years since the founding of the Friends of Hyde Hall (now Hyde Hall, Inc.), the mansion and Visitor Center now offer a full range of tours and serve as a venue for a variety of arts and community partners including Glimmerglass Festival, the Fenimore Art Museum, Cooperstown Summer Music Festival, and the Lake and Valley Garden Club of Cooperstown and Garden Clubs of America. We are proud of our progress. But for Hyde Hall, Inc. to thrive — to



even just survive — we need you to invest in us. We need you to help us provide the popular concerts, recitals, exhibits and tours that our visitors have come to count on at Hyde Hall.


You see the new direction in which we are moving—to having more events and more collaborations—and we know that people are saying, “Yes, this is what Hyde Hall should be used for.”

- Here is what your help right now will guarantee:
- Continued partnerships with artists who love to perform at Hyde Hall because it is the perfect venue for them;
  - Restoration by local craftspeople capable of the highest quality work;
  - Care for one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in the world;
  - Keeping our doors open to the community for weddings, meetings, and students from schools and universities; and
  - Expanded specialty tours that show what makes Hyde Hall extraordinary and unique.

Your help will make Hyde Hall a strong and resourceful community partner.

Please act now to show your support. Giving a gift to Hyde Hall today, either with the slip below or securely online at [www.hydehall.org](http://www.hydehall.org) will help us to give our gift to you: a perfect venue for education and the arts. All too good to lose!

Because of people like you, we have made it this far. Please help us to preserve not only the past history of Hyde Hall, but its future.

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



Support Hyde Hall

I/We would like to contribute to the preservation of Hyde Hall with a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Hyde Hall, Inc.  
Mail to: Hyde Hall, Inc. PO Box 721, Cooperstown, NY 13326  
To donate securely online, go to [HydeHall.org](http://HydeHall.org).

Thank you

Hyde Hall, Inc. is a 509(a)3 nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

New York’s Oldest English Landscape Garden

Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, the art historian, wrote “The landscape garden is the most influential of all English innovations in art.” By “landscape garden” he meant the naturalistic style that evolved in England in the early 18th century in the multi-acre parks surrounding country houses. The style swept through Britain and soon influenced garden design in both Europe and America. This was in contrast to the French Baroque garden, typified by Versailles, with a strong main axis centered on the house and smaller axes of straight lines of trees and walks focused on fountains, statuary or small garden structures. Color was expressed in ornately patterned and densely planted flower beds called parterres. Hedges and trees were clipped to geometric forms. The French landscape garden was intended to show man’s conquering of disorganized nature. The English approach was the opposite, merging the beauty of the natural landscape with the garden and opening the adjacent countryside to view. This new concept was inspired by the 17th century landscape paintings of Claude Lorraine, Nicolas Poussin and Salvatore Rosa, avidly collected by Englishmen on the Grand Tour to France and Italy. Thus arose the term “picturesque” for the style: like a picture. Americans were soon aware of the new taste and in 1786 Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams took their renowned trip around English landscape gardens based on Whately’s book, *Observations on Modern Gardening* (1770).

When George Clarke decided to build Hyde Hall, he had the English landscape garden in mind as the proper setting for his house. He was familiar with examples from his early life in England and with the literature, owning *Encyclopedia of Gardening* by Repton’s successor (see sidebar) John Claudius Loudon. Hyde Hall was sited for the view and unlike most American houses of the time, placed over a mile from the main road. Clarke created a long entrance drive that not only expressed his wealth and stature, but



also his up-to-date taste in landscape design. One entered his property through a domed gatehouse now known as Tin Top, passed over a small, stone bridge and curved down a drive lined with

maple trees. Asymmetrical fields bordered by woods spread out on either side. The drive dipped down to the meandering, tree-covered Shadow Brook and crossed on a covered bridge to emerge on the other side on an open pasture with glimpses of the house and the lake in the distance. The drive curved around clumps of trees and passed along the edge of Hyde Bay with views across Otsego Lake. It then proceeded up an incline between a walled garden and a fish pond followed by a simple stone crypt to arrive at the plateau where the main house was situated. The



drive approached the house from the southeast so that both facades were seen at once and the asymmetry of the house with its multiple roofs and many chimneys was set against the wooded irregular backdrop of Mount Wellington. Clarke saved the most dramatic view for last, the 8-mile vista down Otsego Lake to Cooperstown and hills beyond, first visible in its totality from the piazza. As the English theorists advised, there were no boundaries to

be seen except the horizon.

The view remains the same today and many of the original features of the landscape garden surrounding Hyde Hall can still be seen in Glimmerglass State Park.



--Gilbert T. Vincent,  
Board President, Hyde Hall, Inc.

The most famous designer of English landscape gardens was Lancelot “Capability” Brown who created over 170 gardens and set the standards of the style: curving and serpentine lines, clumps of trees in their natural forms, winding drives, water features, the elimination of flower beds and an overall asymmetry. Brown was succeeded at the end of the 18th century by Humphry Repton who published several books of garden designs. In literature authors such as Thomas Whately and Horace Walpole and poets such as Alexander Pope and James Thomson promoted the style.

2014 Year in Pictures



1. Easter Egg Hunt 2. Egg Hunt Line 3. Portrait of “Jennie” 4. Happy Hunter 5. “Vivacious” Ann 6. Lake Run Marathon 7. Garden Club Gift 8. L&V Garden Club Reception 9. Parade of Packers 10. Tim Walker’s Favorite 11. Jon & Karen Cadwalader at Woodside Hall 12. Garden Party Entertainment 13. Pro Am Concert 14. Flis Blum and Glimmerglass Festival Artists 15. Albany Victorians 16. View From Gala Tent 17. Eric Lysdahl and Chris Kraig 18. Flis Blum & Lisbeth McCoy 19. Gala Setup 20. Matthew Zwissler 21. Gala décor 22. Parking Crew 23. Gala Guests 24. New Courtyard Steps 25. Moving “Jennie”

Thanks to Our Generous Donors



Argand Chandelier, gift of Douglas Kent



Silver and glass items, gift of Eric Lysdahl



High Back Sofa, **Your Name Here**

This extremely rare, Late Classical style high back sofa is a wonderful candidate for restoration. It is part of the original furnishings of Hyde Hall, having been purchased from John Meads of Albany in 1825. We are seeking \$5,000 to restore it. Once restored, we will place this sofa in the entrance hall of the Great House section of Hyde Hall. Can you please help us with this goal?



Vestibule Carpet, Gift of Douglas Kent and Rabbit Goody



Iron Cookware Group, gift of Waldo Johnston



HYDE HALL, Inc.

PO Box 721  
Cooperstown, New York  
13326

607.547.5098 • [www.hydehall.org](http://www.hydehall.org)

**Hyde Hall Ghost Hunters Tours**  
October 24, 25 & 30 • 5:30 pm, 6 pm, 6:30 pm, 7pm  
For reservations call 607-547-5098 • \$20 per person  
Inside Glimmerglass State Park

As investigated by  
**GHOST HUNTERS®**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jonathan P. Maney

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gilbert T. Vincent  
*Chair of the Board*  
Sally Graumlich  
*Vice-Chair*  
Robert O'Neill  
*Treasurer*  
David Russell  
*Vice-Treasurer*  
W. Keyes Hill-Edgar  
*Secretary*

Andrew M. Blum  
*Chair Emeritus*  
Timothy Campbell  
Mary T. Clarke  
Gaylord Dillingham  
Noel H. Dries  
Laird V.R. Elting  
Christopher Franck  
Robert Hanft  
Allison Hill-Edgar  
Douglas Kent  
Eric Lysdahl  
Mitchell Owens  
Carolyn Pomeroy Thompson



Restored Alabaster Clock

# HYDE HALL

Cooperstown, New York

## 2014 Fall Newsletter

### From the Chairman's Desk

Dear Friends of Hyde Hall:

Through 2014 Hyde Hall has continued to make progress in enriching each visitor's experience, not only in the variety of programs, but also in continuing to preserve and improve the house itself.



On the exterior the louvered fanlight from the Carriage House has been removed from the central pediment so the demi-lune opening can be seen as intended. In the Scullery the sliding Yorkshire window, a very rare architectural feature in America and probably a result of George Clarke's upbringing in the north of England, has been restored. Rotted woodwork has been repaired and the original off-white paint color applied on the doorways to the Butler's Pantry, Scullery and Men Servants' Hall. This is the beginning of our program to restore all the exterior woodwork to its original colors over the next few years so that the full glory of this remarkable Regency house can be

understood and enjoyed by all.

On the interior, many small repairs have been made to the fine woodwork that may have been damaged by insects, mold or wear. Recent donations to the collection have added a lot to the interpretation of various rooms. An 1850's Rococo Revival parlor set has joined the one surviving armchair and pier mirror from the Clarke townhouse in New York City and helps interpret the life of George Clarke, Jr., and the second generation. Significant 1820-1840 lighting fixtures have been added to the public rooms and a number of period glass and silver objects have been placed appropriately to fill out details of daily life. Most dramatic is the geometric ingrain carpet now in the Family Dining Room. None of this could have happened without the ongoing generosity of our supporters and we thank you all.

Gilbert T. Vincent  
Chairman of the Board

