

# HYDE HALL

BRINGING A HISTORIC HOME TO LIFE



## EXAMINING HYDE HALL'S TEXTILE HISTORY

*By Gilbert T. Vincent, Chair*



In what promises to be an active and exciting season this year at Hyde Hall, we have a variety of cultural and educational events on the schedule.

Our first educational event took place in April when a three-day meeting of the Textile History Forum, led by Rabbit Goody and Jill Maney, studied the surviving curtains, gilded valances, and decorative fittings from the Drawing and Dining Rooms. These are a rare and important survival of original high style curtains from the Regency period, believed to have been taken down in the 1870s and put into storage.

The forum brought together twenty-five people—textile experts, aficionados, Hyde Hall staff, and volunteers—to study fabric identification and to determine the possible design of the elaborate continuous drapery installed in 1833 by Peter Morange of Albany in both rooms. The group made much headway in deciphering the puzzle, with a program of work still to be completed. Hyde Hall hopes to finish the research this summer and create the new drapery for 2017. When it is completed, the mansion will have on view one of the few examples of continuous window drapery from the early 19th century.

The Textile History Forum is a good example of the type of educational programming that is making Hyde Hall more than just a house museum. We are moving steadily toward becoming a full partner in the Cooperstown area cultural community. Our partnerships with the Cooperstown Graduate Program, the Fenimore Art Museum, Cooperstown Summer Music Festival, and Glimmerglass Festival strengthen all of our organizations and make our region a more exciting and interesting destination.

We look forward to greeting you in 2016.

Jonathan P. Maney

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PARTNERING WITH THE STATE OF NEW YORK

By Jonathan Maney, Executive Director and CEO



For more than 50 years, Hyde Hall, Inc., and the State of New York have conducted what was once a unique experiment. Forming the first public/private partnership to ensure that Hyde Hall would be saved, the State and a group of leading Cooperstown-area citizens began a type of partnership that is now copied at many other historic sites. While the State retained ownership of Hyde Hall, it granted the responsibility of planning and implementing major restorations to the Friends of Hyde Hall, a group that included members of the Clarke family and others who understood the significance of Hyde Hall and the need to raise funds to restore it. As time passed, the Friends of Hyde Hall became Hyde Hall, Inc.

This extremely successful partnership with New York State has produced the vast improvements that we now see. To ensure Hyde Hall's continued stability, and to demonstrate strong commitment to our shared goals, we are renewing our lease with the State for another 30 years.

In brief, this agreement with New York State and Parks will help us increase tourism and continue Hyde Hall's restoration and preservation. Our goals include:

- developing new specialty tours;
- expanding the hydehall.org website;
- developing our research library and its rare book collection;
- improving access to our digital archives;
- building new partnerships with our area's arts and cultural organizations;
- developing new ways to build Hyde Hall's reputation as a Central New York cultural center;
- following the proposals set out in the Hyde Hall Cultural Landscape Report to improve interpretation and enhance the landscape;
- restoring outbuildings, including the Cart Hovel, Ice House, Woodshed, Barn Complex, and Lime House, with the goal of making them suitable for free exhibitions and displays that would benefit Glimmerglass Park visitors and teach them about lake culture and 19th-century agriculture;
- developing access to Otsego Lake from Hyde Hall; and
- completing the restoration of the interior of Hyde Hall.

Altogether, the large price tag for these goals will benefit local contractors, and with improved access to Hyde Hall, our local economy will be strengthened and tourism will grow.



HYDE HALL

267 Glimmerglass State Park Road  
Cooperstown, NY

Mail to:

P.O. Box 721  
Cooperstown, NY 13326

For tour or event information:  
607-547-5098 | www.hydehall.org



PHOTO BY PATRICK MCGILLIAN

## Salute to Douglas Kent

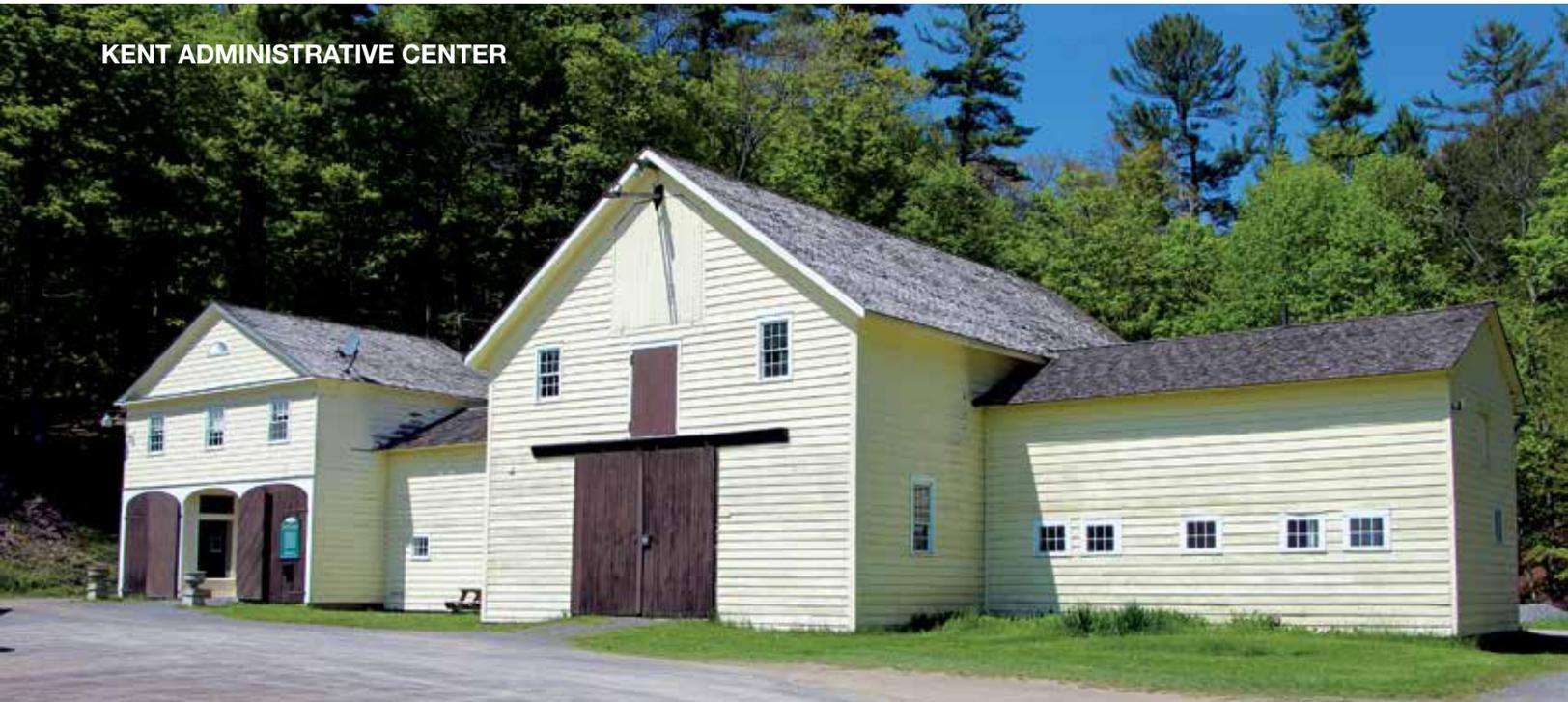
Meeting with representatives of New York State many years ago, Douglas Kent declared in a moment of heated spirit, “I am Hyde Hall!” Few could claim this with as much authority as Doug, whose work with Hyde Hall began in 1965. He was among the first to recognize that Hyde Hall is one of America’s most distinctive homes. While there are many heroes in the saga of Hyde Hall’s painstaking restoration, none is as colorful or brilliant as Douglas Kent, who at 91 remains a steadfast supporter, serving as a board member, cheerleader, watchdog, and stalwart.

To honor Doug’s lifelong romance with Hyde Hall, we have named the former visitors’ center after him. Now called the **Kent Administrative Center**, the lobby (in the building at the far left, pictured below) will display a portrait of Moss Kent, one of Doug’s ancestors, a noted jurist and legal scholar who served as a member of Congress for New York from 1813 to 1817.



Clockwise from upper left: Douglas Kent, 1983; Doug and friends, Hyde Hall Gala, 2015; Doug with Anne Norman, 2003; Doug with Gib Vincent, James Seward, and Jonathan Maney, 2013.

### KENT ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER





# Restoration News



The gravel pathways, now being restored to the way they were in the 19th century, help connect the landscape to the limestone walls of the mansion.

## Bringing Back Gravel Pathways

While Hyde Hall never had foundation plantings, it had, like many English country manors, crushed stone that served to keep the soil dry around the foundation. Gravel, a loose and informal surface, helps connect the landscape to the limestone walls, softening the austere and dignified exterior. We will install gravel paths everywhere they once were in the 19th century so that Hyde Hall will regain yet one more feature that makes it an Anglo-American masterpiece.

## Designing a Second Brussels Carpet

David Hunt, who designed the fabulous Brussels carpet in the Drawing Room that has brought much recent attention to Hyde Hall, is at work on a Brussels carpet for the Dining Room that is based on an 1890s photo of the original carpet and surviving pieces of the body and border.

## Installing a Hall Lantern

The large hall lantern that we purchased at auction in England last fall will soon be hung in the Entrance Hall.

Joel Paradis, the craftsman and restorer who overhauled our magnificent vapor light chandeliers, is constructing a three-arm Argand font and burners for this lantern. This will add much to our already considerable collection of functioning, early 19th-century lighting.



## Putting Down New Flooring

New, old-growth pine floors will be laid inside the mansion in all the areas where there is plywood, including the Kitchen, Men's Servants Hall, first floor rear corridor, the China Room, the Housekeeper's Room, and the Servants' Dining Hall.

And . . . We are resetting the patio stones on the Portico (east side of the Great House), rebuilding the Portico steps, and re-mortaring the columns.

## What's New?

Allen and Judy Freedman have recently donated a large group of outstanding furnishings for the formal areas of Hyde Hall, including gilt mirrors, period lighting, ladies sewing and work tables, bed steps, a mahogany secretaire a abattant, brass andirons, a rare cane seat Recamier chair, and, pictured here, a rosewood music sheet holder and a French Empire clock.



French Empire clock with columns, ca. 1820



Rosewood music sheet holder (Canterbury), ca. 1830



## PLEASE HELP US RESTORE THESE HISTORIC GIRANDOLES!

With the installation of the new Brussels carpet, the Drawing Room is coming to life, yet we have more to do! Help us continue our efforts by funding the restoration of our much distressed but still magnificent pair of mantle girandoles that George Clarke, the builder, bought for his Drawing Room. As you can see, the gilt eagles and marble bases are in excellent condition. What needs serious attention are the fine, cut-glass lustres and blown-glass mounts, some of which are broken and some of which are missing. Estimate for restoration: \$4,000.

Meanwhile, thanks to the wonderful donors who responded to the appeal in our last newsletter, several furniture restoration projects are well underway. These include the high- and low-back sofas, the Grecian sofa, and a rare rocking chair, all of which were original furnishings in Hyde Hall. We thank you for your generosity!



### Welcome, Nolan Cool!

A recent graduate of Utica College, Nolan Cool has joined us as a Hyde Hall intern. His mission is to create a searchable database so that the *George Hyde Clarke Family Papers, 1705–1935* will be accessible to researchers and the public. Nolan formerly interned at the Utica College Center for Historical Research, where he helped jump-start and organize the Digital History Project, which has as its focus the history of the Mohawk Valley. He also created and managed the Center's social media presence on Facebook and Twitter, as well as CHR's blog, *Musings from the Mohawk Valley*. After his internship at Hyde Hall ends in August, Nolan will attend graduate school at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, to pursue a career in public history.

### New Venture!

Did we mention our considerable collection of functioning, early 19th-century lighting? Plans are in motion to produce our own training videos on historic lighting, focusing on lighting technology from 1780 to 1860.

This was an era of rapid improvements and great change, and it encompassed fuel types such as whale oil, colza oil, burning fluid, lard, and kerosene.

At Hyde Hall we have many of these lighting devices in completely original condition, including the extremely rare vapor light chandeliers that we restored in 2012.

Because other major historic sites and museums such as Bayou Bend have asked us for information about how to operate period lighting, we will use Hyde Hall as a laboratory to create demonstration videos.

Our videos will feature Argand lamps, sinumbra lamps, vapor light chandeliers, and solar lamps, among others. We hope to begin production this summer and will market the videos through our website.

### Security System/Fire Detection/Electrical Upgrades

The State of New York is updating Hyde Hall's security and fire detection systems, as well as providing substantial electrical upgrades. This work will help to ensure the safety of everyone visiting or working in Hyde Hall.



# Community Events

PHOTO BY IAN AUSTIN@LOTSEGO.COM



Henry Cooper, left, and twins Lillian and Naomi Badgley, Cooperstown, race across the lawn of Hyde Hall.

## Hunting for Easter Eggs!

On Saturday, March 26, a record-breaking 677 visitors (children and their families) swarmed over the grounds at Hyde Hall to gather 6,000 Easter eggs and search for the three special eggs that earned Easter basket prizes. Sponsored by the Leatherstocking Region Federal Credit Union, this fun event involved teams of Hyde Hall and Credit Union volunteers who sold raffle tickets and offered hundreds of treat bags and balloons to local children.



## Celebrating Mom!

On Saturday, May 7, more than 200 people joined the fun at Hyde Hall's Celebrate Mom! Garden Party. Inside the mansion, guests enjoyed free guided tours, a cappella singing, mini-lectures, readings, and tea and treats in the Dining Room, including a fantastic cake donated by Matthew Zwissler. Outside on the East Lawn, young and old tried their hand at Maypole dancing to music led by volunteer Mary Margaret Kuhn.



## THE GHOSTS AWAIT!

Hyde Hall is pleased to offer an evening tour of the darkened mansion for those hardy souls who want to meet the spirits of some of those who lived and visited here. They will tell you stories of life and of death, and of the eternal vigil they keep in the cold stone halls of this historic mansion.

### HYDE HALL HAUNTINGS

Tuesday nights in July (6, 13, 20, 27) and August (3 and 10)

6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.

*Reservations required; call 607-547-5098*



Standing in the mansion's Drawing Room, Jill Maney speaks to guests about the room's new Brussels carpet, donated by the Gipson family of Unadilla, New York.



PHOTO BY THISISCOOPERSTOWN.COM

**MANSION TOURS: MAY THROUGH OCTOBER**

May 8, 14, 15, 21, 22;  
May 28–October 31, except July 30  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*\$12 per adult; \$10 children, seniors, and military*

# CALENDAR of PUBLIC EVENTS and PROGRAMS

For special events make reservations by calling 607-547-5098 ext. 5

## JULY

### HYDE HALL HAUNTINGS

July 6, 13, 20, 27

6:00, 7:00, 8:00 p.m.

Experience Clarke family history up close and personal. See page 6.

*\$15 per person; reservations required*

### GLIMMERGLASS FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA CONCERT

July 25 | 5:30 p.m.

*Adults \$20, Seniors \$10,*

*Children under 18 Free*

### HYDE HALL GALA: "THE GRAND TOUR"

July 30 | 5:30 p.m.

Fundraising Fun: music, dinner, dancing, and treats. Enjoy the best views in Otsego County!

*\$195 per person*

## AUGUST

### HYDE HALL HAUNTINGS

August 3 & 10

6:00, 7:00, 8:00 p.m.

Experience Clarke family history up close and personal. See page 6.

*\$15 per person; reservations required*

### COOPERSTOWN SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL LUTE CONCERT

August 21 | 5:30 p.m.

*\$20 per person*

## SEPTEMBER

### UNDERNEATH THE LINTEL

(Drawing Room)

September 10 | 5:00 p.m.

A Glen Berger play in which a librarian seeks to solve the mystery of a book anonymously returned after being overdue for 113 years.

*\$20 per person*



## OCTOBER

### THE 3/4 MORGAN GROUP LTD. PRESENTS A CONCOURSE D'ELEGANCE!

October 1

9:00 a.m. to Noon

What a unique opportunity to view close to fifty Morgan sports cars on the lawns of Hyde Hall! The Concourse is held as part of a regional Morgan Group annual gathering, this year to take place in Cooperstown. For information on the Morgan Motor Company and the iconic Morgan cars, visit our website at [hydehall.org](http://hydehall.org).

*Admission is free of charge*



### HYDE AND SHRIEK! CANDLELIGHT GHOST TOURS

October 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29

6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy tricks and treats for Halloween! This candlelight tour visits all places in the Mansion where ghostly manifestations have been reported over 150 years, including those identified by Ghosthunters© in their Halloween 2013 special, aired on October 30, 2013, on the SyFy network.

*\$20 per person; reservations required*



## HYDE HALL

P.O. Box 721  
Cooperstown, NY 13326



### CLEARING BRUSH AND LOCUST SHOOTS

During the frigid winter months, Jenny Trahan of Ames bravely cut back the locust shoots and other brush that had begun to grow after the tree-thinning project of two years ago. Jenny worked in the snow and sleet to preserve the beautiful views that the Gipson family of Unadilla made possible through funding that allowed us to remove dead, diseased, dying, and non-native species. Once again Hyde Hall looks as it did in the 19th century, and we thank Jenny for helping to maintain it!