



FALL 2016

HYDE HALL

BRINGING A HISTORIC HOME TO LIFE

HYDE HALL CELEBRATES A GROUNDBREAKING ANNIVERSARY!

From the time that George Clarke broke ground in 1817 for what was to be his English manor in the wilds of central New York, Hyde Hall, home to five generations of Clarkes, became known as one of the grandest homes in America. From glory to threats of destruction to salvation, Hyde Hall's history continues proudly into a third century in 2017.

You are invited to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Hyde Hall! Please join us in 2017 for an exciting year of programs and events that will create new life and purpose for this wonderful house. Come and marvel at the progress we've made—with your support—in bringing this historic home to life!

Here are some highlights of our season-long celebration:

ART SHOW AND COMPETITION | JUNE 30: The opening of an all-media art show focused on Hyde Hall and its grounds as a source of artistic inspiration.

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION | JUNE 30: Enjoy a day of fun as the grounds of Hyde Hall become the site of an English country fair, with food, music, and local vendors.

GALA CELEBRATING THE "HEROES OF HYDE HALL" AUGUST 5: Our annual fundraiser returns with food, auctions, and testimonials honoring those who saved Hyde Hall from destruction and who guided its restoration with skill, knowledge, and dedication.

CIVIL WAR DAYS REENACTMENT | AUGUST 18–20: Lots to see as Hyde Hall hosts a Civil War-era encampment featuring soldiers drilling and engaging in tactical maneuvers and singing authentic period songs.

These and our regular calendar of musical, theatrical, and cultural events promise to make 2017 our best year ever!

—Jonathan Maney, Executive Director and CEO

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CEO

Jonathan P. Maney

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HYDE HALL

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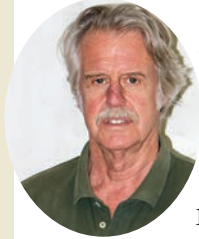
Mail to:

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

THANK YOU FOR MAKING 2016 AN EXCITING YEAR OF PROGRESS AT HYDE HALL!

—Gilbert T. Vincent, *Chair*



Because of your help and support, 2016 has been the best year ever for Hyde Hall. The wonderful additions to our collections, our new events, and our ongoing and ambitious restoration projects such as the restoration of the Portico, new flooring in the first floor of the service wing, and gravel beds that now surround Hyde Hall as they did in the 1830s (see related article on page 5) are benchmarks of significant progress.

The record number of visitors who come to Hyde Hall to experience these improvements reflects and rewards our strong community support.

We are especially pleased with the feedback we receive on TripAdvisor.com. Here are comments from recent reviews that highlight what Hyde Hall offers:

- ▶ Hyde Hall is really very interesting and well presented. The staff is knowledgeable and friendly. . . . you get a good feeling for the history of the area.
- ▶ Our fabulous guide brought the history of the house and its family to life. A wonderful aspect of the visit is to see the restoration work in progress.
- ▶ My last visit was almost forty years ago. . . . How wonderful to see [the house] come back to life!
- ▶ We learned a tremendous amount, and our guide was quite knowledgeable and also flexible relative to our interests.

As we look forward to 2017, the bicentennial year of groundbreaking at Hyde Hall, we invite you to explore this unique part of Central New York's fascinating cultural and historic landscape. You have helped to make our site one of the Cooperstown area's top attractions, and we are eager to show you all that we are doing to make it an even more enjoyable experience.

OUR MISSION

Hyde Hall, Inc., encourages visitors to explore the social, domestic, and agricultural heritage of rural New York through the lives of the Hyde Clarke family and the preservation of their home, Hyde Hall, a remarkable 19th-century, neo-classical British country house.

DEAR FRIENDS OF HYDE HALL,

As you read this message, Thanksgiving approaches and the holiday season will soon be underway. We are so grateful for the support you have demonstrated in recent years, and for all the ways you have shown that Hyde Hall matters to you. Following are a few of the many reasons to continue your support of this extraordinary historic site.

Historic places like Hyde Hall connect us to our regional and national identity. Identity, continuity, and memory ground us and shape who we are.

Visiting a historic site, interacting with the environment and interpreters, and touching artifacts creates a powerful kind of storytelling experience. The history we remember is not what we learned in school: it is what we experienced by visiting an extraordinary place like Hyde Hall.

By participating in all that Hyde Hall has to offer, we keep beauty, art, and architecture alive. Hyde Hall is brought to life by our participation in musical and theatrical events, art shows, car shows, picnics, wine tastings, and historical reenactments. And when guests schedule their dinners, birthday parties, and other celebrations at Hyde Hall, they honor the past as they create meaningful life experiences for their families.

Your generous support has expanded these opportunities for all of us. Please help us continue to offer events and activities that provide rich opportunities for the community at large and for the exploration of our common history. Every gift, large or small, makes a difference. Thank you!

—Jonathan Maney



Restoration News



Paint expert Lori Wilson at work on the walls of Hyde Hall's Dining Room

PHOTO BY THISISCOOPERSTOWN.COM

A MAKEOVER FOR THE DINING ROOM

Fans of reality TV shows might recognize Hyde Hall as being a huge “Before & After” makeover project. Soon Hyde Hall will be the scene of yet another episode: the transformation of the Dining Room walls.

We have asked Lori Wilson, internationally known paint expert, artist, teacher, and master painter, to restore the Dining Room walls to their 1830s appearance.

Long associated with Golden Artist Colors of New Berlin, New York, Lori brings many years of experience to Hyde Hall. Her goal will be to reproduce in the Dining Room the same marbled treatment that has survived in the Drawing Room and Entrance Hall. In the 1880s, the Dining Room walls were painted a once-fashionable Victorian red, but with restorations now focused on recreating the earliest appearance of the Great House, these three major rooms will soon present

the unified ensemble that George Clarke created in 1833.

While painting a room might seem simple, the Dining Room project has posed interesting challenges. The first task was to test the Dining Room wall surface to determine what course to follow in the restoration of the original color. Lori discovered that the red pigment is very difficult to remove, and in the areas she tested, the pigment was deeply absorbed into the plaster walls—all the way down to the second or brown coat layer. Based on this discovery, she believes the red pigment will not bleed through the new thin skin of limewash that she would like to spread over the surface of the Dining Room walls. Not having to remove all of the red paint (a time-consuming and difficult process) is a major advantage. It is interesting to note that the limewash she plans to use

will contain mica and black pigmentation similar to the original surface.

To avoid the possibility of bleed-through or delamination, Lori recommends that we test select areas in the Dining Room with different surface treatments over the fall, winter, and spring seasons. The goal is to choose a durable new finish treatment that will adhere to the present surface. This means we must delay the Dining Room carpet installation until May or early June of 2017. It is a small price to pay for better results.

We are grateful for the care and thoroughness of Lori Wilson’s analysis. We hope you will visit us next May during tours to see her at work recreating the marbled surfaces that make Hyde Hall a model of 1830s elegance and sophistication.

UPDATE

This has been another year of great progress at Hyde Hall! Here is an update on the restoration projects that we described in the Spring 2016 newsletter.



- The hall lantern restoration is nearly complete. Joel Paradis has constructed a three-arm Argand font and burners for this beautiful addition to our sizable collection of functioning, early 19th century lighting. The estimated installation date is November 30.
- The gravel pathways have been installed everywhere they once were in the 19th century.
- The Dining Room carpet design is partially completed. The estimated installation date is May 2017, after the room's walls have been restored (see article on the left).
- By the time you receive this issue, the restoration of the Portico will have been completed. We also painted the South Porch, an exterior project not mentioned in the last issue.
- Installation of new flooring for the first floor service areas is in progress. The work should be finished by December 31.
- In October the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP) finished updating the electrical, security, and fire detection systems throughout the Hyde Hall mansion complex, the Kent Administrative Center, and the Tin Top Visitors' Center. This major project has made our site a safer place for public programming and activities. NYSOPRHP has also doubled the capacity of the Tin Top parking lot from 15 to 30 cars.



We deeply appreciate the efforts of the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation to make our site more safe and accessible. With visitation up forty-two percent as compared to 2011, we have needed these upgrades!



Hyde Hall's fall 2016 intern Peter Glogovsky will examine the manor's staff bell system.

WELCOME, PETER GLOGOVSKY!

As Hyde Hall's fall 2016 intern, second year Cooperstown Graduate Program student Peter Glogovsky will create a comprehensive three-part study of the Hyde Hall bell system that was once used to communicate with servants and staff throughout the mansion.

The first phase will involve researching other similar bell systems of the 19th century. Peter will also study archival evidence and artifacts from Hyde Hall's

collections and the bell system's original components that are still in place.

In the second phase Peter will develop a plan to make the Hyde Hall bell system fully operational.

The final phase of the project will focus on social history and examine how the bell system maintained the roles of servants vis-à-vis members of the Clarke family and their guests.

We are excited about restoring Hyde Hall's bell system so that visitors can experience how it functions (as in *Downton Abbey*), and we welcome Peter's scholarship and enthusiasm for this interesting project.



Jonathan Maney holds parts of the bell system used at Hyde Hall.



Community Events



Gala honorees Steve Larson and Christopher Ohrstrom



Delilah Ohrstrom, Georgina Ohrstrom, Ted Ford, Chloe Ford, Lilla Ohrstrom in Gala attire.

2016 Grand Tour Gala

More than 140 people attended the 2016 Grand Tour Gala that honored Christopher Ohrstrom and Steve Larson, co-founders of Adelphi Paper Hangings in Sharon Springs, New York. In the words of Board member Mitchell Owens, Adelphi "is a thriving world-class atelier . . . that is patronized by leading architects, interior designers, museums, and historic sites for its authentic reproductions of 18th- and 19th-century hand-blocked wallpapers." To read more of the outstanding accomplishments of these two internationally known historic preservationists, please visit Hyde Hall's website, www.hydehall.org. The event raised close to \$40,000.



Lute Concert

World-renowned lutenist Hopkinson Smith superbly performed works by John Dowland, John Johnson, and Anthony Holborne in a Cooperstown Summer Music Festival performance at Hyde Hall on August 21.

Underneath the Lintel

Broadway actor Chris Coucil starred in *Underneath the Lintel*, a wonderful Glen Berger one-man, one-act play staged in the Hyde Hall Drawing Room on September 10.



Concours d'Elegance

On October 1, members of the 3/4 Morgan Group, Ltd., brought their magnificent machines to Hyde Hall for a morning car show and competition. Around 100 people admired a sizeable collection of rare and extraordinary handcrafted British automobiles.



Hyde & Shriek

On Friday and Saturday nights in October, the *Hyde & Shriek* Candlelight Ghost Tours thrilled nearly 700 spirit seekers and enthusiasts of the *Ghosthunters*© Hyde Hall episode. Hot cider and donuts in the Kent Administrative Center helped to prepare crowds for daring forays into the unknown. A monstrously good time for all!



The new permanent uplighting on the portico columns lent a dramatic look to Hyde Hall's façade for Halloween.

A CALL TO ARTISTS!

In recognition of Hyde Hall's 200th anniversary, we are inviting artists to participate in an exhibition at Hyde Hall celebrating the home's history and beauty. Hyde Hall, the Cooperstown Art Association, and the Smithy Center for Arts welcome artists to submit art in any medium that represents, interprets, or reveals their favorite view or concept of Hyde Hall.

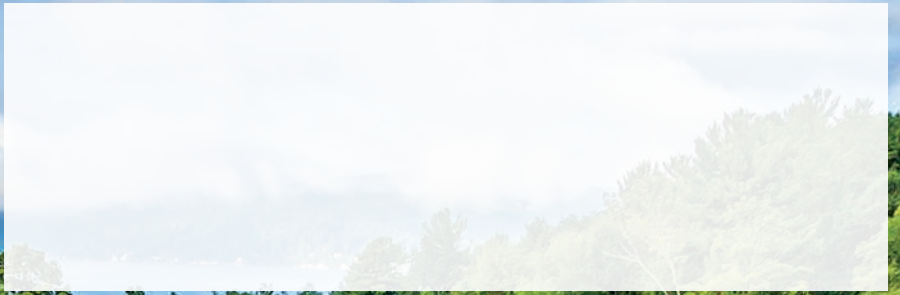
Entries will be displayed in an exhibition that will open at Hyde Hall's Bicentennial Celebration on Friday, June 30, 2017. One work will be selected for ongoing display at Hyde Hall throughout the year and will be awarded a cash prize of \$500.

Works should be delivered to the Hyde Hall Kent Administrative Center during weekday office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from June 12 to 23, 2017. If you have questions, please call John Bower, marketing manager, at 607-547-5098, ext. 6, or e-mail info@hydehall.org



HYDE HALL

P.O. Box 721
Cooperstown, NY 13326



A CALL TO ARTISTS!

For an exhibition on June 30, 2017, share with us your interpretation—in any medium—of your favorite view or concept of Hyde Hall. One work will be selected for ongoing display and a cash prize. See details on page 7.

