

200
YEARS

HYDE HALL

BRINGING A HISTORIC HOME TO LIFE



ANOTHER MILESTONE!

Last spring, after artist Lori Wilson (Wilson Decorative Solutions, New Berlin, NY) restored the Dining Room walls to their marbled 1833 appearance, we were ready to install the reproduction Brussels carpet designed by David Hunt of the Vermont Custom Rug Company. Woven on the looms of the Langhorne Carpet Company in Penndel, Penn., the highly figured Brussels carpet is an exact copy of the 1833 dining room carpet ordered by George Clarke. Closely examining original pieces of carpet that had survived on two ottomans still in our collections, David was able to precisely copy the colors and patterns that made up its body and border. With

its installation in late October, Hyde Hall now boasts another great rarity in American house museums: a completely authentic copy of a carpet that once graced this elegant room. Next step: the restoration of the red, worsted wool figured damask curtains that will complete the transformation of our historic American dining room in the best French and English taste.

A SUCCESSFUL CHALLENGE GRANT, P. 2
KITCHEN AND CURTAIN PROGRESS, P. 4-5

Jonathan P. Maney

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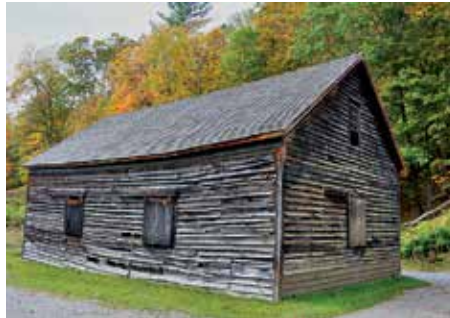
A CHALLENGE WELL MET!

Message from Gilbert T. Vincent, Chair

This spring the Gipson family of Unadilla, New York, and the Tianaderrah Foundation proposed a \$100,000 challenge grant for Hyde Hall to be matched dollar for dollar. The purpose was to raise the funds to continue the restoration momentum achieved through several individual donations in the past years and the grant of \$250,000 from the Dormitory Authority of New York State arranged by Senator James Seward in 2014. We are pleased to report that through the generosity of sixty donors, we matched the Gipson's generous challenge, achieving our goal on September 5, 2017. The fundraising effort raised a total of \$202,095 in just over four months.

With these new funds, we plan to complete the restoration of the four major rooms of the kitchen complex to their condition in 1835. We are making all the component parts functional and plan to hold period cooking as well as culinary history classes in the spaces. Funds from the challenge grant will also enable us to complete the restoration of the magnificent silk and woolen damask curtains in the Drawing and Dining Rooms of the Great House, and reinstall the original and rare gilded valances correctly. Last, we plan to restore the large, unpainted woodshed behind the house (see below) as an exhibition space for our growing collection of Otsego Lake artifacts.

All of us at Hyde Hall thank all of you for your continued interest in the house, for your attendance at our public events, and for your ongoing support to ensure that this unique property remains available and vital to this area and to the public at large.



The Wood Shed was built in 1885 to supply fuel for Hyde Hall's eight fireplaces and many stoves. Restoration will return it to the original site on a new foundation and include the stabilization of the frame and exterior siding. Once work is completed, the Woodshed will serve as an exhibit space that will house boats and artifacts related to the history of Otsego Lake.

THANK YOU TO OUR CHALLENGE GRANT DONORS

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gipson and the Tianaderrah Foundation

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Hyde Hall's Bicentennial Gala: Our Fair Lady

With more than 130 people in attendance on August 5, the stage was set to enjoy fine food and the astonishing talents of Glimmerglass Festival artists and other local musicians. The Bicentennial Gala was an extraordinary evening to enjoy and remember. Thanks go to Hyde Hall board member Milla Lozanova for chairing this spectacular fundraising success! The event netted close to \$40,000 toward Hyde Hall, Inc.'s operating budget.



Friends and supporters applaud the Gala's honoree—Hyde Hall—in recognition of 200 years of elegance, excellence, survival, and hope for her future.



Executive Director Jonathan Maney presents the 7th Annual Anne Hyde Clarke Logan Cultural Preservation Award to S. Rabbit Goody of Thistle Hill Weavers, a renowned artisanal studio in Cherry Valley, New York, dedicated to the authentic reproduction of period textiles for historic homes, Hollywood sets and costumes, and connoisseurs.



Decked out in their Gala finery, Nellie Gipson (left), Eric Lysdahl, Gala Chair Milla Lozanova, and David Laureano strike a pose on the front steps of the Great House Portico.

Boat Donation and Its Relevance to Future Exhibits

When Cooperstown resident Veronica Seaver recently donated a magnificent, fully restored, 1929 Chris Craft mahogany launch to Hyde Hall—a boat that once belonged to Anne Hyde Clarke Logan—she provided a catalyst to help reconnect Hyde Hall to Otsego Lake's history and culture. Plans are underway to showcase this boat and other lake craft and artifacts in what will one day be a new exhibit space, the 1885 Woodshed.



PHOTO BY PATRICK McMULLAN



Restoration News



Left: Simon Carr-Ellison restores shelving in the Kitchen.

Below: Open hearth fireplace and bake oven in the Back Kitchen—our next renovation project.



HYDE HALL'S COUNTRY HOUSE KITCHEN COMPLEX NOW BEING RESTORED!

The kitchen complex at Hyde Hall was designed using the most advanced early nineteenth-century ideas for a large country house. Based on British precedent and adapted to American innovation in stove technology, the complex was completed over two building campaigns, 1822 to 1824 and 1833 to 1834. The main working rooms included a Kitchen, a Back Kitchen or Scullery, and the Housekeeper's Room.

Although built at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution with its many new inventions, the Hyde Hall kitchen still required considerable manual labor. The full kitchen complex therefore included a total of nine different interconnected rooms for a number of specific tasks plus

a wine cellar and six bedrooms for live-in staff. As labor-saving devices began replacing the need for a large staff during the latter nineteenth century, many of these rooms became redundant. They survived largely untouched at Hyde Hall in part because of the solid masonry construction of both the exterior and interior walls.

We are now in the process of completely restoring the main kitchen rooms. With much physical evidence intact and strong documentation from the bills and receipts in our digital archives, local craftspeople Simon Carr-Ellison and Ken Roorda have repaired woodwork and patched plaster in the Kitchen and adjoining Housekeeper's Room. They will re-install a period stone

sink, and reconstruct the five-hole masonry stew stove to the right of the chimney stack. With restored cupboards, shelves, and wainscoting, both rooms are getting ready for paint. Using paint analysis provided by Erin Moroney, architectural conservator of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, we will faithfully reproduce the original colors: tan for the walls and blue for the woodwork and cornice.

Our goal is to re-create a completely outfitted, early nineteenth century working kitchen that will allow us to offer period-style cooking classes and demonstrations. Visitors will appreciate how versatile, attractive, and up to date this commodious Kitchen was in the 1830s.



Recreating the Dining Room Curtains

Using surviving fragments of the red worsted wool figured damask curtains from the Dining Room, Rabbit Goody of Thistle Hill Weavers will recreate on her looms the continuous drapery that once made Hyde Hall an oasis of luxury in the early nineteenth century. Meanwhile, her studio has completed the Dining Room's gossamer under curtains, see photo, which were installed in mid-October.

The yellow silk figured damask Drawing Room curtains will also be copied to match the scale and pattern of the originals. When mounted on the original gilt garnitures, they will be equal to any found in the period town houses of London or Paris.



Restoring George Clarke's Suite

With support from Hyde Hall board members Noel Dries and Douglas Kent, George Clarke's bedroom and office/dressing room suite will soon appear completely revitalized, with freshly painted walls and woodwork that match the original colors as determined by paint analysis. The floors will be covered by colorful striped ingrain carpets woven in period style by local artist Rabbit Goody.



Cooperstown native Brian Hubbell restoring the Osborn & King Forte Piano

Restoring the Piano

Constructed in Albany between 1830 and 1832, the Osborne & King forte piano is now playable again thanks to a grant from Douglas Kent. Several new bronze strings ordered from London replaced ones that had broken, and with a fresh tuning the piano sounds remarkably well and resonant in the environs of the Drawing Room.





Community Events



CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

Car fans and interested guests gathered to enjoy a return of the fabulous custom British Morgan cars on display at Hyde Hall in early October.

SMALL TOWN BIG BAND: "WHEN SWING WAS THE THING"

In early September, the public was invited to bring a picnic supper and listen to a free concert performed by the Small Big Town Band on the mansion's veranda, all while enjoying the stunning views of Otsego Lake and the surrounding hills. The concert was sponsored by the Leatherstocking Credit Union and the *Freeman's Journal*.



Artists from the Glimmerglass Festival perform an All-Mozart program on July 19.

HYDE HALL RESOUNDS WITH THE SOUNDS OF MUSIC!

What better venue than the beautiful Drawing Room to sit back and enjoy an evening of classical music! This summer, Hyde Hall hosted two sold-out concerts: the first, in July, featured an All-Mozart Concert performed by artists from the Glimmerglass Festival. The second, in August, was a combined fundraiser to support both Hyde Hall and the Cooperstown Summer Music Festival, and featured Baroque music and champagne.



HYDE & SHRIEK!

Our candlelight ghost tours returned this fall with added dates for family enjoyment of what has become an immensely popular Halloween treat. With genuine ghost stories from Hyde Hall's long history told by costumed interpreters, everyone had their share of chills in the evocative atmosphere of the mansion's long, gloomy corridors and cavernous rooms.



Bradley Brookshire on harpsichord, Linda Chesis on flute, and Sarah Cunningham on the viola da gamba perform at the "Bubbly Baroque" fundraiser on August 25.

CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT

Hyde Hall hosted its first Civil War Reenactment on a weekend in late August. Reenactors from the 125th and 61st New York Regiments encamped on our newly reclaimed picnic grounds by the Kent Center, where they demonstrated both camp life and battle tactics for staff and guests. Several of their company brought relics and photographs from the period to exhibit and explain about life during the war. Visitors were also treated to a delightful late afternoon concert of period music on the mansion's south lawn overlooking Otsego Lake, performed by the 77th New York Regimental Balladeers. WKTV Channel 2 featured the event on their weekend newscasts. A second Civil War weekend is planned for mid-August in 2018 with more reenactors and a full roster of events.

While George Clarke, Jr., the owner of Hyde Hall at the time of the Civil War, did not participate in the fighting, a nephew, Lt. Marmaduke Cooper, died of illness while in service at Fort Monroe, Va. George was also well acquainted with the notorious Union General and New York politico "Fighting Dan" Sickles. Prior to the war Sickles aided the young Clarke in resolving some serious gambling debts.



Best in Show:
"Liver Bird"
by Richard Colby
of Hartwick, NY



HYDE HALL 200TH ANNIVERSARY ART EXHIBIT WINNERS

Richard Colby was inspired to create his seven and a half foot sculpture by the liver bird, which symbolizes the city of Liverpool, England. The original Hyde Hall was located in Cheshire, not far from Liverpool, and thus likely familiar to George Clarke. The use of a bird to represent the city dates to the medieval era, but the idea that the "liver bird" is a mythical creature specific to Liverpool evolved in the twentieth century. The bird is normally represented in the form of a cormorant holding a branch of laver in its mouth, and appears as such on Liverpool's coat of arms. This sculpture is offered for sale by the artist for \$6,000.



Honorable Mentions, clockwise from left:
Set of two studies, watercolor, John Henry Aborn, Milford, NY; Collage, Anda Stelian, Roseboom, NY; "A Wedding at Hyde Hall," acrylic, Helen Snyder, Fort Plain, NY



HYDE HALL

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PORTICO RESTORATION PROJECT

Workers from Windy Hill Restorations (Fort Plain, NY) replace the mortar between sections of the Portico pillars. Part of extensive repairs to the stonework of the Portico steps, porch, and columns, this project completes a much-needed tune-up of Hyde Hall's east facade.