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**CARLYLE  
HOUSE**

Susan Hellman  
*Site Administrator*

Helen Wirka  
*Site Specialist*

Vanessa Herndon  
*Education Assistant*

# Docent Dispatch

News and Updates

Letter from the Curator

May 2015

Hello everyone!

The house has looked wonderful for the past couple of months! Thank you to all of you for keeping things tidy like putting the baskets behind the doors, keeping the girls' clothing in their two baskets and putting away the canvas bags in the fire buckets carefully. It makes a huge difference, especially on weekends with the crowds we have been having lately!

I wanted to give you a preview of upcoming interpretation changes in the museum:

-The Bible is going back into storage for the months of May-September. In its place will be a book on architecture by Palladio entitled "The Architecture of A. Palladio" published in London, England in 1742.

-At the end of May, I will be putting the dresses back into storage. We will have a gaming scenario in the Dining Room for the duration of the summer. Also, the new japanned tray which was acquired last fall will be incorporated into the interpretation in this room now that the busy open house season is coming to a close.

-We have just acquired a new faux tobacco twist to replace the real tobacco on display in the Study. It is best museum practice to not have any dried, once living plant material in the house, and with new technology and the talents of Heather Hembrey of History's Table, we now have a faux version of this important and major Virginia commodity.

-In February we acquired a new overmantel mirror (ca. 1750 -1760) which is a beautiful example of an English George II piece. It will be hung in the Parlor this summer over the fireplace. The mirror, also called a looking glass, retains the original beveled glass and the veneer is in very good condition. This was an amazing find! (see attached photo)



Lastly, we hope that you will join us for a special Open House event "Lafayette in Alexandria Day" which is being organized in conjunction with the Office of Historic Alexandria and Lee-Fendall House Museum. On Sunday, May 31st from 1-5pm, there will be a citywide event commemorating the assistance given by the Marquis de Lafayette during the American Revolution to the colonies. It will be "Lafayette in Alexandria Day" and is a prelude to the arrival of L'Hermione, a replica of the ship Lafayette built and sailed to America during the Revolution. During the "Lafayette in Alexandria Day" we will have an opening ceremony on Market Square from 1-1:30pm and then from 1:30-5pm visitors will be able to get free admission to the following sites: Carlyle House, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, Alexandria Archaeology Museum, The Lyceum, Friendship Firehouse, Alexandria Black History Museum, and Lee-Fendall House Museum.

There will be a shuttle bus running between Alexandria Black History Museum, Lee-Fendall House Museum and The Lyceum. We will be having re-enactors at Carlyle House all day including the Marquis de Lafayette as well as John Carlyle and his family and friends. The year will be 1780 (before Carlyle's death.) We will need docents to sign up to work this Open House event from 1:30-5 (we will stop letting people in at 4pm however.)

Many thanks,  
Helen

**CARLYLE HOUSE  
HISTORIC PARK**

## Calendar of Events

### All Saturdays in May

Attics and Alleys Tours of Alexandria  
9:30AM-12PM  
Tickets for sale at the Historic Alexandria  
Online Shop:  
Shop.AlexandriaVA.Gov  
\$35/person

### May 10, Sunday

Mother's Day Tea  
Seatings at 11AM and 2PM  
**SOLD OUT**

### May 18, Monday

Spring Potluck on the Terrace  
10:30AM  
*More information on page 3*

### May 18, Monday

Bookclub-Novels by Samuel Richardson  
*Clarissa: The History of a Young Lady*  
*Pamela: Virtue Rewarded*  
12PM

### May 21, Thursday

Happy Hour-*La Tasca*  
4PM-7PM

### May 27, Wednesday

Hands on History Tent Training  
7PM

### May 30, Saturday

"Colonial Foodways"  
Hands-on-History Tent  
12PM-3PM  
*Volunteers needed for children's activities*

### May 31, Sunday

L'Hermione Open House  
1PM-5PM  
*Docents Needed*

### June 4 and 18, Thursday

Carlyle House Summer Concerts  
6PM-8PM  
Free Admission.

## Garden Day 2015

Thank you to members of the Friends Board, Carlyle House Staff, Docents, and Volunteers who all helped to make The Herb and Craft sale a success! At least 2000 visitors stopped by the event, and another 208 visitors toured the home as part of the Home and Garden Tour. We are grateful for your work and all you do for Carlyle House!

Susan, Helen, Vanessa



# Announcements

## CARLYLE HOUSE HISTORIC PARK

### Spring Potluck on the Terrace

On May 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM join Susan, Helen, and Vanessa on the Terrace for breakfast! Catch up with us on our current projects and other happenings at Carlyle House. We ask that everyone attending bring a dish to pass, staff will provide the coffee. Please sign up in the Docent Lounge and put down what dish you will be bringing.



### CHAD Events

CHAD Events will resume in September beginning with the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Until then, please send your ideas to Vanessa.

### Docent Training

Helen and Vanessa will be having training sessions for people interested in becoming Docents at Carlyle House. Training will occur on Mondays (12PM) and Wednesdays (7PM) in June, except on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. An additional training will be held Wednesday July 1<sup>st</sup> at 7PM. Please spread the word and encourage others to join our fantastic group of volunteers! Veteran docents are strongly encouraged to participate in these training sessions.

