Recently I commented to my colleague Margize Howell on the extraordinary number of French ormolu mantel clocks on view in the houses of the Classical American Homes Preservation Trust. When I asked her if she knew just how many there are, she answered, "count the number of fireplace mantels." Though Margize was being facetious, a concurrent count of fireplace mantels and the French mantel clocks acquired by Dick Jenrette and Bill Thompson over the years, which number twenty-one in total,
Over 150 friends from around the country joined us at the George F. Baker Houses in New York City for our annual **Spring Patrons Party**. Every year we host this gathering as an opportunity to thank our donors and friends for their support. This is a special time where we get to greet faces, some new and many familiar. In fact, last year we had 200 new donors, and many came out for this event. It was especially nice to see a new generation of young adults here. **Read more and see pictures from the evening.**
A Day of Art & Architecture at Millford
April 18, 2015
Pinewood, SC

On Saturday April 18, 2015 Dick Jenrette, Peter Kenny and Classical American Homes Preservation Trust hosted a special Day of Art & Architecture at Millford, sponsored by Ronald Long and Kinga Bender of Charlton Hall Galleries in Columbia, South Carolina, and made possible by the meticulous preparations of Site Supervisor Louie Hall and his team. The day was marked by intermittent, gentle spring rain and soft-filtered light through thin, overcast clouds that only served to accentuate the beauty of the architecture and the verdant landscape. Read more and see photos from the event.

Ayr Mount's 200th Anniversary Dinner
May 2, 2015
Hillsborough, NC

Happy 200th Birthday, Ayr Mount!
Ayr Mount, a house built by William Kirkland in 1815 and named after his homeland of Ayr, Scotland, is celebrating a year of exciting Bicentennial events!

Thank you to all the 230 friends, patrons and preservationists who joined us for Ayr Mount’s 200th Anniversary Benefit Dinner on Saturday, May 2nd. The weather was perfection as the guests started arriving at 5 pm to the notes of a kilted bagpiper. Everyone walked through the house at the start and throughout the evening, then headed out to the terrace for cocktails. Dinner was held under a large white tent that had a view of the rolling green landscape and pond. Read more.

See more photos on our Facebook Page.
A Ball at Ayr Mount House
May 23, 2015
Hillsborough, NC

The bagpiping anthem, Scotland the Brave heralded the beginning of another Bicentennial event: A Ball at Ayr Mount House. Josh Hinson, a talented local bagpiper, was truly the Pied Piper of the Ball. Couples fell in line behind him for the Grand Promenade around the grounds to the sweet smell of early magnolia blossoms. Thereafter the music and dancing began in earnest. Jack Maus, the evening's talented Dance Master made for a relaxed and happy time for newcomers and experienced dancers alike. Read more and see photos from the event.

Tours
Spring 2015

"No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow." (Proverb from Guinea)

With spring comes a change in the rhythm of our tour season, as we welcome many patrons to each of the historic houses, who come also to enjoy the warmer weather, the gardens and scenic landscapes associated with each home. We began our traditional spring tour season with each of the properties being quite active. At Millford Plantation, we greeted Friends of the Owens-Thomas House from
A Fifth grade student from the Laurence Manning Academy who visited Millford, South Carolina.

Dean Failey and Margize Howell at a Decorative Arts Trust event.

Savannah for a tour and box lunch, and the following day we also hosted them at the Roper House. So far, they have visited three of the seven properties as they recently also visited Edgewater. The night before the group’s visit, the members of the Aspen Institute’s Globalization Seminar reserved the Roper House for their final evening in Charleston. **Read about more tours from this Spring.**

Georgia Botanical Advisory Board in the Dining Room at Edgewater, New York.

Fifth grade student from the Laurence Manning Academy who visited Millford, South Carolina.

**In Remembrance**

**Dean F. Failey**

Classical American Homes Preservation Trust and the entire American decorative arts community have lost a much-loved friend, Dean F. Failey, who died suddenly at home in East Northport on May 19, 2015. Dean is the author of *Long Island Is My Nation: The Decorative Arts & Craftsmen 1640-1830*, and was the first full-time director of the East Hampton Historical Society. His deep knowledge and appreciation of American antiques was an inspiration to scholars, curators, collectors, and dealers in the field. **Read more.**
Announcing - NEW
Annual Report and Newsletter Compendium

Download our latest Annual Report and Newsletter compendium.

Click here to read our past Annual Reports.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for the Fourth Annual Music at Millford on Sunday, September 13, 2015

Double Parlors at Millford

Amy Schwartz Moretti and Robert deMaine

Last year's sold-out performance is a testament to the virtuosos featured in this program. Robert deMaine, Principal Cello of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and James Wilhelmsen on piano, are returning to Millford for an encore performance joined by Amy Schwartz Moretti, Violin Chair and Director of
Mercer's McDuffie Center for Strings. This collaboration is sure to be an extraordinary musical experience - held in the Double Parlors of one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in the country.

**Grounds** open at Noon  
**Picnic** starts at 12:30 PM  
**Pre-Concert Exclusive:** *Phyfe Unveiled* at 12:30 PM  
Benefit lecture and tour with Duncan Phyfe expert, Peter Kenny, of two newly installed bedrooms not normally open to the public.  
**Concert** at 2:30 PM

**See our website for more information and to purchase tickets.**

Watch a video clip from last year's performance at Millford.

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**SAVE THE DATE - A Year of Bicentennial Celebrations at Ayr Mount**

**Broadwood Ayr on Saturday, September 19, 2015**  
Performances at 3:00 PM and 5:30 PM

In an intimate gathering among friends in Ayr Mount's beautiful interiors, visitors can enjoy this parlor concert featuring Andrea Edith Moore, soprano, and Keiko Sekino, pianist. Limited seating for this event. Purchase your tickets today.

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**Cèilidh at Ayr on Saturday, October 24, 2015**  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Cèilidh is a Scottish Gaelic term meaning "visit", used to describe a celebration with stories, poems, music, and dance.

Join us for a day of music and dancing to celebrate Ayr Mount's Scottish history. Enjoy a fun mix of Scottish entertainment: Scottish jigs, reels and strathspeys, lovely airs, bagpipers, fiddlers, and more. There will be food on site, a children's play area and children's scavenger hunts on the grounds. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and enjoy the day! Limited tickets for this event. Click here to reserve your tickets.

Support

Support our mission to preserve, protect and open to the public examples of classical American residential architecture, surrounding landscapes and scenic trails, as well as fine and decorative arts of the first half of the 19th century.

DONATE NOW

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Let us know your thoughts about historic preservation, comment on your visit to our historic homes, and share with your friends news about our programs and events!