Having Fun with Old Houses

One of the objectives at Classical American Homes Preservation Trust in the words of Dick Jenrette, founder and president of CAHPT, is “to make sure that these fine old homes are enjoyed and that it is a “fun” experience to visit them.” Through tours, programs and events, our goal is to share these different experiences at our historic houses with you.

This publication is a “snapshot” of the various ways we are having fun, compiled from our quarterly online Newsletters from the past year. It also seeks to document how we preserve, protect and open to the public these examples of classical American residential architecture, fine and decorative arts of the first half of the 19th century.

Last Spring, we established the Friends of Millford group – co-chaired by Lee Manigault and Kirkman Finlay, pictured here with Dick Jenrette – to safeguard the legacy of Millford, in Sumter County, S.C., considered by many to be the finest example of Greek Revival residential architecture in America. Through the help of Lee, Kirkman and the Friends of Millford, we are working to ensure that this particular landmark is preserved and enjoyed. I encourage you to become a Friend of Millford, too.

By going to our website, www.classicalamericanhomes.org, please subscribe to our Newsletter in order to receive all our news. We look forward to seeing you at our next event!

Sincerely,

Margize Howell,
Executive Director

Spring Picnic at Millford Plantation
Barbecue benefit in Pinewood, South Carolina – Sunday, April 7th, 2013

Bonnets, hoop skirts, eighteen and a half inch waists... does that conjure up Scarlett O'Hara at the Twin Oaks picnic and barbecue in Gone with the Wind? We have the ideal Gone with the Wind house for such an event — Millford Plantation — with or without your bonnet, hoop skirt or eighteen and a half inch waist! (We prefer Aunt Pitty Pat's more ample waist-line!)

On Sunday, April 7th, CAHPT presented a Spring Picnic and barbecue to benefit the Friends of Millford. The Friends of Millford was organized in early 2012 by a group of supporters who share a deep appreciation for Millford and are interested in preserving its legacy for the future. Come visit this National Historic Landmark and its interiors and gardens. Millford is open for public tours on the first Saturday of every month from February to December in 2013. Please check our website for additional days it will be open and for special events.

Millford Plantation is considered one of America’s most beautiful examples of early 19th century Greek Revival residential architecture. It was given to Classical American Homes Preservation Trust in 2008 by Richard Hampton Jenrette, who restored the mansion and gardens and reassembled much of its original collection of Duncan Phyfe furniture. Located on 400 acres in Sumter County, SC, Millford is approximately 45 minutes from Columbia or 2 hours from Charleston.

Left to right: Ned Johnson and Dick Jenrette.

Friends at the Millford Picnic.
Award in the Field
Bard Graduate Center honors Richard H. Jenrette
Wednesday, April 17, 2013, Colony Club, NYC

We started the Spring season in New York with the Bard Graduate Center honoring Richard H. Jenrette for his contributions to the field of preservation and decorative arts.

On April 17th, Dick was honored as a 2013 recipient of The Iris Foundation Award for Outstanding Patron from the Bard Graduate Center in New York City. The award recognized Dick’s “long-standing and passionate commitment to preserving and restoring classical American houses and their related collections, [which] reflects the true spirit of the Iris awards, and that [his] decision to share them with the public through Classical American Homes Preservation Trust is especially important to celebrate.”

Richard H. Jenrette to receive inaugural Frank L. Horton Lifetime Achievement Award
Presented by Old Salem/Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA)
Thursday, May 16, 2013, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

We are pleased to announce that the inaugural Frank L. Horton Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Richard Hampton Jenrette for his dedication and contributions to the preservation, scholarship, and connoisseurship of southern decorative arts and material culture. Named after Frank L. Horton, who’s shared vision, along with his mother Theodosia “Theo” L. Taliaferro, established the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) as the preeminent museum for domestic objects made in the South. This award honors the efforts of those collectors, scholars and dealers, who raise awareness and appreciation of great traditions in southern craftsmanship.

This event preceded the opening of MESDA’s new Anne P. and Thomas A. Gray Library and Research Center on May 18, 2013. This new, state-of-the-art facility contains a specialized collection of over 20,000 catalogued volumes that focus on southern history, southern artisans and their trades, as well as Moravian history, and southern material culture and decorative arts.
Although the weather in January is characteristically polar-bearish, New York City is definitely NOT the place to be if you want to hibernate. During the third week in January, Classical American Homes started celebrating Americana Week a little early. Starting on Tuesday evening, January 22nd, we hosted friends, patrons and curators from The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts and Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library. Thankful for a warm fire and cocktails, everyone was busy catching up at the George F. Baker House... and taking a deep breath before the tide of auctions, fairs, museum visits, private visits, and other parties rolled in. We enjoyed providing the “jump start” for Americana Week and welcoming all the guests to this fun and frenzied time.

Drum roll…..the Winter Antiques Show opened on Thursday, January 24th with Glamour Galore...as in the loan exhibition from The Preservation Society of Newport, Newport: The Glamour of Ornament. Ooh-la-la. A double height backdrop of the Great Hall of The Breakers (1895) with its gilded and highly ornate ceiling caught one’s eye immediately on entry to the Armory. It towered over their well-designed space filled with exquisite portraits, silver, ceramics, couture and other objects providing a glimpse into the lives of those who lived in the Preservation Society’s eleven historic properties ranging from the colonial era to the Gilded Age.

Traditionally, the Winter Antiques Show does not disappoint and this year was no exception. A diverse range of dealers and objects with too many goodies to single out here were on display. Go to the WAS’s excellent website or to bloggers — Reggie Darling’s or Thomas Jayne’s blog — for a more in depth look.

Catherine Sweeney Singer, Executive Director of the Winter Antiques Show, deserves a shout out. She does such a stellar job at organizing this show — we can’t imagine how many plates must be in the air all the time. Hopefully, they’re not rare Meissen ones, but if so, she looks as if nothing would drop and that everything flows effortlessly.

The other thing that doesn’t disappoint is that the show benefits East Side House Settlement which helps over 8,000 individuals in the South Bronx by providing quality education and technology training. Students attended the Opening Night and their smiles and presence added more wattage to the evening.

A chilly and snowy winter in New York was offset by a warm fire in the drawing room at the George F. Baker House.

Winter Antiques Show, Newport: The Glamour of Ornament.
On a snowy January 25th evening, the Friends of the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art were eager to view the 2012 acquisitions and hear from the curators about their “shopping” decisions. Morrison H. Heckscher, introduced the evening and gave an overview of the fascinating objects. Amelia Peck presented a charming pictorial quilt from Illinois, circa 1875, reflecting the issues of the day with depictions of Civil War soldiers returning home as well as a woman with a banner proclaiming “WOMEN’S RIGHTS” among others. Nonnie Frelinghuysen’s newest treasure was an extraordinary Tucker porcelain vase (1826-1838) with Philadelphia views of Sedgely Park designed by Benjamin Latrobe and on the opposite side, Springland, designed by and the home of William Birch — the era’s most noted architect and landscape architect, respectively. (Richard H. Jenrette was one of the donors.)

Peter Kenny, pointing to the Phyfe & Son window bench from Millford Plantation previously acquired by The Met, introduced the recent acquisition of two Phyfe & Son side chairs belonging also to Gov. John Laurence Manning and his wife, Susan Frances Hampton for their home, Millford Plantation, built in 1839-1841 in Pinewood, SC. All three objects were in the Duncan Phyfe exhibition, but at that time, the two side chairs were on loan from Classical American Homes. In 2012, an exchange between the two organizations took place — the two side chairs owned by CAHPT now belong to the MMA in an exchange for the Phyfe & Son rosewood bedstead and night table, belonging to the MMA (also in the Phyfe exhibition). Please see the article on “Acquisitions” (p. 7) for more information on these objects.

Would you like to learn more about the Friends of the American Wing? Visit their website at www.metmuseum.org/friends.

At the Winter Antiques Show

Holland Harvard poses as the artist’s muse at Elle Shushan’s booth.

Anne Cox Chambers and William Banks pause inside the Newport exhibition.

Stefanie Rinza and Gloria Callen.

Carlton Hobbs and Emily Eerdman Evans.

Margize Howell (Executive Director of Classical American Homes Preservation Trust) and Tom Savage.

Left to right: Julie Lindberg, Daniel Nadler, David Roselle, and Serga Nadler.

Left to right: John Nye (Dawson Nye Auctions), Tom Savage, and Sambo Dixon.

Matthew Thurlow (Major Gifts Officer at Winterthur).

Julie Smith, newest CAHPT employee, and her father, Jack Smith (CAHPT Operations Manager and Board Director).
Americana Week (continued)

Gil Schafer Lectures for the Decorative Arts Trust
George F. Baker House – Saturday, January 26th, 2013

The next day, Saturday, January 26th (are you tired yet?), the members of the Decorative Arts Trust met at the George F. Baker Houses for a sip of this and that to take the chill off before hearing a sold-out lecture by Gil Schafer. Recognized as one of the leading practitioners of classical architecture today, Gil offered insights into what informed him as an architect by lecturing about his family’s compound in Thomasville, GA. His lecture was entitled, “Pink Clapboards and Tea Olive: What a Southern House Taught Me About Tradition, Memory, and Great Design.” It had a Proustian effect on us all and caused us to dream of nostalgic places and times that were evocative and significant to each of us. There was a wonderful exchange of questions and answers that followed, too.

After the lecture, Gil graciously signed his newly released book, The Great American Home, Tradition for the Way We Live Now, which has already gone into its second printing.

Wendell D. Garrett Memorial Service
Park Avenue Armory – Monday, January 28th, 2013

We will miss Wendell

On January 28th at the Park Avenue Armory in New York City, there was a celebration of the life of Wendell Garrett, who died on November 14th, 2012. The service was organized by Betsy Pochoda, Editor of The Magazine ANTIQUES, among others. Wendell’s family, including his children and grandchildren, his many friends (pictured at left with Clifford Harvard) and admirers filled the Tiffany Room, and there was standing room only in the adjacent Trophy Room with additional seats set up in the hall.

Morrison Heckscher began with a personal and moving tribute to Wendell, followed by equally eloquent and emotional tributes by Catherine Sweeney Singer, Jay Cantor, relating their travels through New England nearly 50 years ago, Eleanor Gustafson telling of his work at the Magazine, and Robert Leath, who pointed out that Wendell was a true Southerner at heart. Each recounted different tales about the great man, which alternatively brought us to tears and laughter. Carrie Rebora Barratt and Elle Shushan punctuated the speakers’ tributes with readings of Wendell’s favorite historical quotes, collected in his voluminous notebooks. The service ended with one of Wendell’s favorite musical scores, Aaron Copland’s Fanfare for The Common Man, performed by the renowned trumpeter Woodrow English. Following the service, there was a reception held in the center of the Winter Antiques Show to toast and remember Wendell.

Classical American Homes will always remember his warm smile, positive nature and quick wit, not to mention his huge contribution to the field of Americana. His 1992 book CLASSIC AMERICA: The Federal Style & Beyond, featuring on its cover the drawing room at Edgewater, is not only an important reference but it now stands as a commemorative tribute to his brilliant life and work.

A memorial fund in Wendell Garrett’s honor has been established at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. For further information or to make a contribution, please contact Matthew Thurlow, Major Gifts Officer, Winterthur Museum, 5105 Kennett Pike, Winterthur, DE 19735 or call 302-888-4878.
Meanwhile in Charleston – Roper House
Charleston Library Society – Friday, January 25th, 2013

Roper House had its own festivities and was not about to be outdone. Benefactors and members of the Charleston Library Society visited on Friday evening, January 25th for a pre-Gala glass of wine on their way to their Gala Dinner celebrating the 265 year mission of the Library Society. The Library, established in 1748, is the third oldest library in the country and the oldest cultural institution in the South.

Top row: (left) Ginny Bush, Connie Wyrick, and Susan Friberg; (center) Lucienne & Greg Van Schaack; (right) Bob & Lynn Hanlin, Glenda & Larry Wetzel.
Bottom row: (left) Dick & Anne Keigher, Anne & Bill Semmes; (center) Anne Cleveland (Executive Director of the Library Society), Meg Cleveland Pitts; (right) Anne Semmes, Ginny Bush, Anne Cleveland, Lucienne Van Schaack, Anne Keigher, Judy Moore, Cathie Smith.

Acquisitions 2013
Duncan Phyfe

Last year, Classical American Homes loaned several objects and portraits from our collection to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston for the exhibition, “Duncan Phyfe: Master Cabinetmaker in New York.” Among these pieces were a pair of side chairs, selected from a set at Millford Plantation. The chairs, made of solid rosewood, feature a fusion of Gothic and classical elements, a style characteristic of Duncan Phyfe & Son.

In late 2012, Classical American Homes purchased three identical side chairs from a direct descendant of the Mannings, growing our collection to eleven chairs from the original set, facilitated by Charlton Hall Galleries. As mentioned earlier in the Newsletter exhibition, Classical American Homes and the MMA formalized an exchange. The three recently acquired side chairs and the the bedstead and night table, complete with the faux-grained rosewood crown and the crimson silk bed hangings and bed cover, have all been returned “home” to Millford. We encourage you to visit Millford and see this new installation.
Profile: William Lea Thompson
CAHPT Board Member and Interior Designer

We are pleased to introduce this new section of the Classical American Homes newsletter. In each coming issue, we will highlight an individual in the CAHPT “family” and their contributions to our organization. Our initial profile features Mr. William L. Thompson (pictured at right), a CAHPT Board Director, or as most of you know him, Bill.

In addition to being an ardent supporter and donor, Bill currently sits on CAHPT’s Board of Directors, of which he has been a member since the organization’s inception in 1993. Over the years, Bill’s design vision has proven invaluable to CAHPT. Many of the handsome carpets, curtains, and fabrics at CAHPT’s properties have been designed or created exclusively by Bill.

In addition to researching and locating period wall colors, fabrics, furnishings, etc. he also serves as CAHPT’s resident historian. In fact, Bill’s first venture in interior design was the Octagon Room (pictured on cover) at Edgewater, which was designed by A. J. Davis, where Bill fashioned an elegant carpet that would become the linchpin of the room’s décor. In coming up with the design, Bill recalls how he “sat down on the floor and using gold paper, cut out patterns using the ceiling of the baths of Pompeii as [his] model. I used green because A. J. Davis liked his interiors to bring in the outdoors.” This room was later featured in The Finest Rooms in America: 50 Influential Interiors from the 18th Century to the Present by Thomas Jayne, published in 2010.

Bill grew up in Western Pennsylvania during the Depression, which he matter-of-factly describes as “not too inspiring,” setting the stage for his pursuit of beautiful projects and inspiring details. On his initial trip to Philadelphia, his first stop was Wanamakers where he says, “I discovered there was something more than mission and waterfall furniture and mohair.” Bill recounts his experiences in working with many renown architects and decorators, who encouraged and provided ideas that Bill has drawn on in his own work. Among others, he includes Ed Jones, Fred Johnston, Tony Hail, Rose Cumming, Otto Zenke, Georgina Fairholme, Lee Radziwill, and Nancy Lancaster as inspiration. Some of Bill’s favorite classical interiors are Nancy Lancaster’s drawing room at the Colefax and Fowler shop, and the Victoria Mansion in Portland, Maine (which he states, “has some of the most beautiful colors I’ve ever seen although it is not my favorite period”). Some of his favorite houses include the Crescent Hotel in Bath, England, Temple de la Gloire by Pierre Vignon, Villa Emo by Palladio, Poplar Forest (pictured above left) (“Thomas Jefferson’s get away house in VA, [which] is different, well planned and not too big,”), and Villa Malcontenta (pictured above right).

Bill Thompson’s historic knowledge and design vision has been instrumental in the interior design of Classical American Homes’ portfolio of classical residential house museums. For the future, he would like CAHPT to continue our mission of caring for and promoting our properties, while maintaining focus on historical accuracy and the highest quality. Bill singles out Frances R. Edmunds, the Executive Director of Historic Charleston Foundation from 1948-1985, as a visionary preservationist, and applauds her for the important and early work she did to preserve Charleston. Please take the opportunity to visit our houses to see some of Bill’s extraordinary work.
Tours de Roper House and Millford
Decorative Arts Trust visits Charleston and Pinewood, S.C.

The Decorative Arts Trust held its Fall Symposium: “Historic, Preserved and Refined: Charleston Furniture, Architecture and Interiors” in Charleston from November 1st–4th. This well-attended event, with DAT members from all over the United States, was filled with lectures, historic house tours and private events.

We were delighted that this group visited Roper House (pictured at right) on a sunny, beautiful Saturday with tours given by Dick Jenrette and Ernie Townsend which also included a rooftop visit with views of Charleston and the harbor.

The next day, two buses with over seventy-five people motored up to Millford with box lunches. It was another warm day and they were greeted by Millford’s Site Manager of 30 years, Louis Hall, who introduced them to Millford over a glass of chilled wine and shared some of his favorite stories. Millford docent, author and local historian, Charles Broadwell, gave a tour of the house’s interior highlighting the original portraits, Phyfe furniture and memorabilia relating to Gov. John Laurence Manning and Susan Hampton Manning.

We were pleased that several of the objects had returned from the Duncan Phyfe exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston in time for their visit.

Clockwise, left to right: George Washington by Harriet Cany Peale, portraits of John Rutledge by Charles Fraser, Maria Calhoun by Charles Bird King at Roper House in Charleston, S.C.

For information and scheduling a tour of Roper House, and, for more about Millford, please visit us at: www.classicalamericanhomes.org

Roper House
Top row, left to right:

Millford
Bottom row, left to right:
Millford at a glance; (L–R) Robert Burton, Richard McHenry, Chuck Akre, and Jim McCaskill on the terrace; the rotunda at Millford.
All photographs courtesy of Jeannette Lindvig.
Open House and NEW TRAILS at Ayr Mount
An afternoon exploring a historic house and walking trails along the Eno River
Sunday, October 28th, 2012

Over 150 people attended Ayr Mount’s first public Open House on Sunday, October 28th in Hillsborough, N.C. which is about ten miles from Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Visitors enjoyed a free tour of the house, explored the popular Poet’s Walk along the Eno River (pictured at left), and heard the latest on a new section of trails extending off the Historic Occoneechee Speedway Trail (HOST) entitled the James M. Johnston Natural Preserve.

It was a lively day calling attention to local nature conservation and historic preservation. The majority of attendees enjoyed touring the 1815 Federal-style home, built for William Kirkland from Ayr, Scotland and lived in by four generations of Kirklands. Refreshments, music and door prizes were woven into the day’s festivities. Ayr Mount’s historic house has also seen a subtle addition by way of conservation advances. To reduce the harmful exposure of ultra-violet light on the paintings, works on paper and furniture in the rooms, solar film panels have been installed on all the window panes and glass doors to filter out damaging UV light. To the visitor, these panels are barely visible and we are pleased that this product protects the collection for future generations to enjoy. Another advantage is that it keeps the house cooler in the summer months, yielding both energy and cost savings.

Today, there are five miles of walking trails at the Ayr Mount Historic Site. Over 11,000 people walked these trails last year. For information about Ayr Mount, directions and how to visit, please visit us at: www.classicalamericanhomes.org.

Local historian and art dealer, Chip Pottage, described his afternoon visit, “Hearing the bagpipes coming, and then the appearance of the piper was dramatic, set against the foliage and hills in the distance — nothing could have been more appropriate for the Kirklands and Ayr Mount.... I always enjoy being at Ayr Mount.”

Eno River flows along The Poet’s Walk.

Left to right: Visitors entering Ayr Mount for a tour; Site Supervisor Bill Crowther (left) speaking about Ayr Mount; Ayr Mount’s entrance hall.

Left to right: Bagpiper Josh Hinson playing Scottish tunes to the 150 guests; Betty Bass, Dianne and Warren Hinson, and Josh Hinson; musician Elizabeth Whalen.

Left to right: A family enjoys the architectural details of the house; exploring the Music Room and original Broadwood piano; Bill Crowther and Chip Pottage (right), local historian and art dealer.
Music and High Tea at Millford
A special piano duo inaugurates Music at Millford
Sunday, October 28th, 2012

Millford’s double parlors were graced with a captivating concert by the renowned piano duo Marina Lomazov and Joseph Rackers. The Lomazov/Rackers duo have performed as recitalists and in concert with orchestras throughout the US and Europe. Having each earned the Doctor of Music Arts Degree in Piano Performance at the Easton School of Music, they now both serve on the University of South Carolina School of Music piano faculty.

The moving program consisted of Schubert, Ravel, Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky. Marina’s introduction of the Schubert piece — as an example of 19th century Hausmusik, which was composed to be played in small, intimate settings such as drawing rooms of private homes, at court or in small chapels — was certainly appropriate and complementary to Millford’s elegant interiors. Their exceptional performance was followed by High Tea, catered by Southern Way Catering.

Music at Millford reflected the creativity and efforts of the dedicated host committee to whom CAHPT would like to extend a whole-hearted thanks. The host committee was chaired by Christina Clark, and members included: Mary Belser, Susan Boyd, Rita Cullum, Charlotte Kahn, Betsy McKay, and Anne Reyner. They organized a unique event that was as “pitch perfect” as the piano duo themselves. Please visit our Facebook page for a video sample from the day’s concert.

This event was a benefit for the Friends of Millford, a group of supporters who share a deep appreciation for Millford and are interested in preserving its legacy for the future. As a registered National Historic Landmark, and one of America’s finest examples of early 19th century Greek Revival residential architecture, Millford is a “must” visit site.

Top row: (left) Marina Lomazov; (center) Host committee member Mary Belser speaking with the Gottshalls; (right) Host committee member Anne Reyner and JP Parekh of Rice Music.

Bottom row: (left) Marina Lomazov and Joseph Rackers, piano duo; (center) Swing Meyer, Sissy Weaver, Caroline Meyer, Host Committee chair Christina Clark; (right) Marina Lomazov and guests outside at Millford.

To watch part of this performance, visit our Facebook page, under “Music at Millford.”

Acquisitions 2012
From the Estate of Brooke Astor

Classical American Homes recently acquired two objects which were a part of the Estate of Brooke Astor: a French Empire early nineteenth century ormolu mantel clock depicting a mother and daughter as well as a print of a drawing of this clock. The clock resided on the mantel in Mrs. Astor’s famous library in NYC designed by Albert Hadley. You may recognize this clock either on the mantel at Baker House in New York City or in the Palace of Fontainebleau.

The design of this French Empire clock can be attributed to Jean-André Reiche (1752-1817). Reiche, born in Leipzig, worked in Paris and created several clock designs for the Emperor Napoleon. This clock, depicting an astronomy lesson between a mother and daughter, was among them. Female scholarship was a favored motif of Reiche; he produced several clock designs with women reading and studying. The dial of this clock is signed Galle, indicating that the famed bronzier Claude Galle (1759-1815) manufactured the clock. Galle also produced many pieces for Napoleon.

The print is likely a copy of Reiche’s original design for the clock. Many of Reiche’s designs for Napoleon are held at the Bibliotheque Nationale de France in Paris, including his series of female scholars. This design was given in 1807. A faint title underneath the drawing identifies it as “La Leçon d’astronomie,” or, “The Astronomy Lesson.”
Autumn visitors at Edgewater
Visitors from North Carolina Museum of History, National Trust for Historic Preservation and other groups

The Associates of the North Carolina Museum of History

The Associates of the North Carolina Museum of History (pictured at right) in Raleigh, NC toured the Hudson Valley, with visits to Kykuit, Sunnyside, Mount Gulian Historic Site, West Point, Hyde Hall, Val-Kill, Vanderbilt Mansion, Boscobel, and Olana from September 17th -21st. Midway during their trip, they also stopped at Edgewater. Starting their tour at the guest house, they walked to the main house, with the Hudson River on one side and the colorful border garden on the other.

They enjoyed learning more about fellow North Carolinians, Robert Donaldson and Susan Gaston Donaldson, who lived at Edgewater beginning in 1852. Of particular interest was the Donaldson suite of Phyfe furniture, their portraits and the Octagon Library designed by Alexander Jackson Davis, who was also the architect of the NC State Capitol and other buildings at the University of North Carolina. This group felt like Edgewater was an old friend!

National Trust for Historic Preservation

This Autumn a group from the National Trust for Historic Preservation cruised on a small ship, the American Glory, starting in New York City and traveling along the Hudson River to Albany. The bright foliage and historical sites were some of the attractions along the Hudson. On a beautiful, crisp day the group of 45 passengers made a docking near Edgewater. It was the perfect day to visit the house, walk the grounds and linger at the water’s edge. Many remarked that it was interesting to actually visit Edgewater after seeing it from their ship!

Other groups who visited this Autumn include the National Society of Colonial Dames and the Texas Cultural Trust.
What’s New in the News?

Summer full of variety

Traditionally, news in the Summer can lag, but fortunately, it hasn’t been slow for us. We have had an exciting couple of months of visits and coverage from various press, bloggers, TV producers, scholars, and students expressing interest in our homes. Read on to find out more and see photos from our recent activities!

Favorite Rooms

Richard Jenrette’s favorite room at Edgewater featured on Plum TV

This summer, producers from the Emmy and Peabody-winning Efran Films approached Classical American Homes Preservation Trust and Dick Jenrette to feature his favorite room(s) at Edgewater. The program, simply entitled “My Favorite Room,” aired on Plum TV in early August to over 5 million viewers. It offers a unique opportunity to walk through the house with Dick as he talks about his personal history collecting houses and, in particular, the many wonderful stories behind Edgewater.

Ayr Mount featured on Thomas Jayne Design Studio blog

Little Augury highlights the many details of this North Carolina Landmark

For a series known as “House of Details,” the creative and original Gaye Tapp was invited to contribute a post to Jayne Design Studio blog called “Decoration - Ancient & Modern” about a house of her choice - we were delighted when she chose Ayr Mount!
Tours & Events
People, parties, panels, places, and photos....

Spring Patrons Party at the Baker Houses, May 9th

Our annual Spring Patrons Party was attended by over 200 people. Kathy and Jim Mestl (left); Max Yeston and Richard Jenrette (center); our fabulous staff Kathy Healy-Gillen and Julie Nalven (right).

Livingston family descendants visit Edgewater during their Family Reunion in August

Dick Jenrette (pictured in photo at right) points to portrait of their relative, Julia Eliza Montgomery Livingston by John Vanderlyn. She was the sister of Margaret Livingston Brown, who was given Edgewater as a wedding gift by her father, John R. Livingston in 1824.

Attingham Study Programme students at Edgewater

Students from all over the world — India, New Zealand, Czech Republic, to name a few — visiting historic house museums in the Hudson Valley.

Tour of Ayr Mount by the American Antiques Appraisers.

In July, Ayr Mount hosted an American Federal Furniture Seminar led by David Lindquist and his daughter, Elizabeth Lindquist, of Whitehall Antiques in Chapel Hill, N.C. Close to thirty people attended this full day seminar where they were able to study the furniture up close as well as examine pieces upside down to understand their construction methods and materials.
Visit Our Houses

EDGECWATER
Edgewater, built in 1825 on the Hudson River in upstate New York, combines classical architecture with a dramatic setting to create one of the Hudson Valley's most charming river residences.

AYR MOUNT
Ayr Mount, a Federal-style plantation house built in 1815 just outside historic Hillsborough, N.C. was home to William Kirkland and four generations of the Kirkland family for the next 170 years.

ROPER HOUSE
Roper House, built in 1838 on the recently completed High Battery, commands a sweeping view of the Charleston, South Carolina harbor.

MILLFORD PLANTATION
Built between 1839-41, Millford Plantation is one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in America and still retains most of its documented Duncan Phyfe furniture.

GEORGE F. BAKER HOUSES
The George F. Baker houses comprise a block of adjoining residences owned by the Baker Family on the corner of Park Avenue and East 93rd Street in New York City, dating from 1917-1932.

ESTATE CANE GARDEN
Located on a high hilltop in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, Cane Garden is a classic example of a small Palladian villa, circa 1784, featuring expansive Caribbean views.

To schedule a tour, please go to: www.classicalamericanhomes.org

Classical American Homes Preservation Trust
69 East 93rd Street, New York, NY 10128
Phone (212) 369-4460  Fax (212) 369-4462
www.classicalamericanhomes.org

Classical American Homes Preservation Trust, founded by Richard Hampton Jenrette, seeks to preserve, protect and open to the public examples of classical American residential architecture as well as fine and decorative arts of the first half of the 19th century.