Spring Picnic
at Millford Plantation
Barbecue benefit in Pinewood, South Carolina
Saturday, April 9th

On Saturday April 9th more than 250 people gathered in Pinewood, South Carolina for a barbecue picnic benefitting Millford Plantation. It was a beautiful day filled with people from all over South Carolina as well as the rest of the country. Guests included descendants of the Hampton, Manning, and Clark families who have all lived at Millford. Local favorites such as barbecued pulled pork, fried chicken, corn pie, and banana pudding were served under a festive white tent.

Please see photos below from the day and visit our Facebook Page for more pictures.

Millford Plantation, built in 1839–41, located in the heart of the state, approximately 45 minutes drive from Columbia or 2 hours drive from Charleston, was donated to Classical American Homes Preservation Trust in 2008 by Richard H. Jenrette. Millford is considered by many to be the finest example of Greek Revival architecture in America. Currently, a designated National Historical Landmark, Millford is as impressive on the inside as it is on the outside. Most of the original furniture designed by Duncan Phyfe & Sons in New York never left the house and can be viewed in situ with the Manning portraits of three generations of South Carolinian Governors and their families who lived in the mansion. For more information on its history – for example, the story of how Millford survived the Civil War – please visit our website or see Adventures with Old Houses.

Interested in visiting Millford?
Please go to www.classicalamericanhomes.org.
Archives of American Art
at Ayr Mount
News from Hillsborough, North Carolina
Saturday, April 9th

North Carolina was awash with dogwoods, azaleas, tulips, redbuds, and cherry blossoms in early April. This blanket of color welcomed the Smithsonian Archives of American Art’s visit for four days in the State. Ayr Mount hosted the group of two dozen on Saturday, April 9th. They heard about the history of the Kirkland family (four generations), the exceptional Federal-style architecture, and the collection of early 19th century fine and decorative arts. They even got to hear a bit of the North Carolina State song, The Old North State, written by William Gaston, who is related to the Kirklands through marriage. Many thanks to Olivier Bernier, distinguished lecturer and author for sharing his expertise on our engraving of the Tuileries and our Federal gilt pier mirror with verre églomisé. He was also kind enough to autograph his book, Pleasure and Privilege: Life in France, Naples, and America. 1770–90, which is in our library. The group picnicked with boxed lunches before heading off to the airport. In honor of William Kirkland’s heritage the group left with Scottish dainties to eat on their way home.

Come see Ayr Mount and the adjoining Poets Walk. Go to www.classicalamericanhomes.org for more information.

Salt Bay Chamberfest

Musical Trio at The Baker House
Salt Bay Chamberfest in New York City
Sunday, March 27th

On Sunday, March 27th, the Salt Bay Chamberfest presented an afternoon of great music and Maine artisanal foods in the drawing room of The Baker House. Many gathered to hear a program that included Franz Schubert and a composition by Derek Bermel.

Schubert’s piece was performed by The Variation String Trio, an energetic and dynamic ensemble of string players, who were founded in 2005 and have performed in chamber music series across the United States and in Europe. The members of the trio are Jennifer Koh (violin), Hsin-Yun Huang (viola), and Wilhelmina Smith (cello and the founding Artistic Director of Salt Bay Chamberfest). The afternoon’s presentation also featured Derek Bermel, a composer of chamber, symphonic, dance, theater, and pop works. His versatility and virtuosity is hailed as a clarinetist and conductor, as well as a jazz and rock musician. As a composer, Bermel has received the Rome Prize, Guggenheim and Fulbright Fellowships, and an award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, among others. For this afternoon’s presentation, he played a work entitled, “Thracian Sketches” to an enthusiastic audience.
Antiques Week in Charleston
Evening on the Battery at the Roper House
March 16th–20th

During the excitement and bustle of Antiques Week in Charleston, over 125 visitors gathered at the Roper House for an evening of cocktails and talks given by CAHPT Executive Director and Curator, Margize Howell; Peter M. Kenny, the Ruth Bigelow Wriston Curator of American Decorative Arts & Administrator of The American Wing at The Metropolitan Museum of Art; Ralph Harvard III, antiquarian, architectural historian and interior designer of Ralph Harvard, Inc.; J. Thomas Savage, Director of Museum Affairs of the Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library; and Paul F. (Chip) Callaway, Landscape Architect of Callaway & Associates, Inc. This prominent group of scholars spoke about the architecture, furnishings and gardens of this 1838 house built for the cotton planter Robert William Roper. The evening culminated in cocktails on the rooftop and piazza as attendees overlooked the Charleston Harbor to a spectacular full moon.

The evening was one of many exciting lectures and events presented by the 2011 Charleston Art and Antiques Forum which coincides each year with Historic Charleston Foundation's Annual Festival of Houses and Gardens and International Antiques Show. Between the three major events the city was alive with visitors interested in Charleston arts and architectural history – and Roper House rose to the occasion.


An Evening at the Roper House

Tom Savage from Winterthur, Bessie Hanahan from Charleston, and Daniel Ackermann from MESDA.

Sarah Horton, from Charleston, SC and Alex Franklin, from Charleston, WV.

Ralph Harvard of Ralph Harvard Inc. and Gail Kahn from Chicago.

Tom Campbell, Director of The Metropolitan Museum and Carrie Barratt, Assoc. Director of The Metropolitan.

Bruce Perkins, Forum attendee from Washington, DC.

Marion Norwood, Dan and Emily Sanders, all of Greenville, SC.

David Knox from the Chipstone Foundation and Wendall Garrett of The Magazine Antiques and Sotheby’s.

Christian Duvernois, landscape architect and writer, Isabelle LeMaistre from the Louvre, and Chip Callaway, landscape architect of Roper House.

Ernie Townsend, Roper House site supervisor and Peter Kenny from The Metropolitan Museum.
New York City - Winter Antiques Show Week
The Baker Houses host a lecture, reception and tours
January 21st–22nd, 2011

Although unusually snowy and chilly in the Big Apple this January, the Winter Antiques Show once again dazzled and drew many new and old friends to New York City. Helping to thaw this cold front was the extraordinary loan exhibition from Charleston, “Grandeur Preserved: Masterworks Presented by Historic Charleston Foundation,” with over 50 objects from cultural institutions and private collections in Charleston. We were pleased to have many Charlestonians and others visit us during this week at The Baker Houses, the Delano & Aldrich-designed family complex on East 93rd Street between Park and Madison Avenues. Intrepid members of the Historic Charleston Foundation, Young Georgians and the Philadelphia Antiques Show came for tours despite 20-inch tall snow banks outside our doors.

Lee Manigault, who lives at the Miles Brewton House with her family in Charleston, lectured about this exceptional mid-18th Century house, both from a personal and historical perspective, to members from the Decorative Arts Trust and the American Friends of the Georgian Group on January 21st. The lecture was held in the two story garage at 69 East 93rd Street which was built as a carriage house by the George Baker family, and now serves as the headquarters for Classical American Homes Preservation Trust. Following the lecture, a reception was held next door at 67 East 93rd Street, Dick Jenrette's residence.

For more information on The Baker House, please visit www.classicalamericanhomes.org.

Classical American Homes Preservation Trust
69 East 93rd Street, New York, NY 10128
T: (212) 369-4460 F: (212) 369-4462

For more information please visit our website at www.classicalamericanhomes.org.
Support our mission to preserve some of the finest examples of American architecture, art and design at www.classicalamericanhomes.org/support.
New Gifts & Acquisitions to our Collection

Classical American Homes Preservation Trust recently has been the fortunate recipient of several extraordinary gifts of art as well as two exciting new acquisitions. CAHPT’s collection, itself, focuses on American fine and decorative arts from the first part of the 19th century with an emphasis on the classical idiom. The collection represents examples from this period of paintings, furniture, clocks, musical instruments, porcelain, drawings, prints, historical documents, letters, maps, and more. Highlights include many of the original objects that have been returned to these historic houses such as the documented Duncan Phyfe furniture for Millford and Edgewater, as well as the original 19th century portraits of the families of Ayr Mount, Millford and Edgewater.

Classical American Homes has received a set of 12 New York classical mahogany armchairs, circa 1835–1840, as well as two life-size portraits by Charles Wesley Jarvis (1812–1868) of Harriet Douglas Cruger and her brother, William Douglas, through the generosity of Mr. James Craig. A set of eight Charleston, South Carolina Federal dining chairs, circa 1800, as well as a late 18th century French Directoire mantel clock were generously given by Mr. Thomas Bennett. A sinumbra lamp by T.C. Salt of Birmingham, England and retailed by John B. Wilbor of New York, circa 1833-1844, was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Feld, and is a handsome addition to the Millford library, which dates to the same era. Thank you to our generous donors.

Classical American Homes’ newest art acquisitions include a portrait of Edward Livingston by John Vanderlyn (pictured top right), and a late 19th century portrait of Henry Clay, after John Neagle. Both portraits and corresponding frames recently have undergone conservation and will be installed in the upcoming months.

For more information on donating to Classical American Homes Preservation Trust, please contact Linda Park, Programs & Development Associate, at (212) 369-4460.
**Tours & Events**

It has been a busy season of group tours and visitors to all our houses, from the Hudson Valley, New York City and down to South Carolina. Thank you to all of our visitors!

The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA)'s Summer Institute class visited **Millford** in July. This class of 20 students from the Old Salem Museums & Gardens can be seen in a group photo, at left. In the spring, Millford also hosted a group from the University of South Carolina who came to explore the house and grounds.

Saint David’s School Alumni Parents Council hosted an evening event in April for over 80 people, many who live in the Carnegie Hill neighborhood. Visitors were delighted at this opportunity to see what lies behind the distinctive “green doors” that characterize the **Baker Houses**. Likewise, there was so much interest from a tour organized by The Cosmopolitan Club that one group quickly doubled with over 50 members that came to the Baker Houses over the course of one morning. **Pictured above right,** members of The Cosmopolitan Club with Margize Howell, looking at the portraits in the former carriage house now CAHPT’s offices at 69 East 93rd Street.

The **Roper House** in Charleston hosted 500 people who attended Historic Charleston Foundation’s 64th Annual Spring Festival of House and Gardens on April 12th. Also, that same month, groups from the Art Institute of Chicago and the Gibbes Women’s Council visited the house. In May, the State Highway Commissioners of South Carolina gathered for their annual meeting there.

In upstate New York, at **Edgewater**, early spring brought the Brick Presbyterian Church of New York (neighbors of the Baker Houses in New York City) to the countryside. In June, The University Club travelled north to visit this house along the Hudson – which we encourage as a respite from the bustle of the city in summer.

Throughout May, June, and July, several new groups came to visit **Ayr Mount** and hundreds more came to explore the Poet’s Walk. These groups included the Friends of Tom Rice, the Snyder Memorial Church, Little Family Reunion, and Cedars of Chapel Hill.

To book a tour of any of our houses, please contact Kathy Healy-Gillen at info@classicalamericanhomes.org and go to our website and see the links to each of the houses for more details on how to schedule a tour.

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**Friends at our Houses**

**MESDA Summer Institute students at Millford Plantation.**

**Dr. David O’Halloran, Headmaster of Saint David’s School, and Margize Howell.**

**The Cosmopolitan Club of NYC visits The Baker Houses.**

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**Summer at Edgewater**

**Guest house by architect M. Dwyer.**

**Interior of guest house.**

**Edgewater portico at dusk.**

**View of the Hudson River beyond the pool.**

**View of courtyard garden.**

**Garden wall along pool.**
Curator from The Met talks about Duncan Phyfe at Edgewater

On a recent afternoon in October, Classical American Homes Preservation Trust was honored to host Peter Kenny, at right, the Ruth Bigelow Wriston Curator of American Decorative Arts and Administrator of The American Wing at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and a group of our friends and supporters at Edgewater. Located about 100 miles north of New York City on the Hudson, Edgewater has a collection of Duncan Phyfe furniture that was originally commissioned for the Donaldson family who resided at the house in the mid-19th C. and will be on loan for the upcoming exhibition (see images at right, including portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Donaldson and some of their Phyfe furniture). Mr. Kenny spoke to a gathering of 40 guests about the life and work of Duncan Phyfe, and shared some new and interesting scholarship about Phyfe's work that was discovered in the process of researching this upcoming exhibition.

Duncan Phyfe: Master Cabinetmaker in New York opens at The Met December 20, 2011 and runs until May 6, 2012. The exhibition then travels to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston where it will be on display from June 20 through September 11, 2012.
With the changing of the seasons and the color of the leaves, this is a wonderful time to visit Ayr Mount and enjoy a walk along the scenic Poet’s Walk. Recently, Ayr Mount was featured on UNC TV to highlight this historic “Jewel in the Crown” of North Carolina. Schatzie Crowther was the featured docent in this segment and was wonderful!

Not only is the house receiving a lot of attention recently, but Ayr Mount’s cemetery has been brought back to “life”! The Kirkland family gravestones have undergone a succession of cleanings which will be completed in the summer of 2012. At left, there are “before” and almost “after” photographs.

The cemetery at Ayr Mount has been the final resting place for over 200 years for the Kirkland family. Four generations are interred alongside William Kirkland (1768–1816), the patriarch from Ayr, Scotland and his wife Margaret (1773–1839). The cemetery holds approximately 26 graves plus the unmarked graves of three of their infant sons, William (1801), James (1805) and David (1813) all born before Ayr Mount was completed.

One of the more descriptive gravestones, is that of Alexander Kirkland which closely resembles those found in Scotland. It reads:

In Memory of Alexander McKenzie Kirkland, son of William Kirkland of Ayrshire Scotland and Margaret Scott his wife, and husband of Anna McKenzie Cameron born December 3rd 1809 died May 7th 1943 aged 22 years and 5 months. A dutiful son, a tender husband, a fond father, a loyal friend, an honest man, a Christian Gentleman. Come where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.

At right, see gravestones of Alexander and his wife Anna.

The last direct descendant buried at Ayr Mount is Samuel Simpson (1883–1971). His wife, Emily (1911–1989) was buried alongside of him and is the final Kirkland to be at rest in the family plot.

To learn about the Kirklands, the influential family who built Ayr Mount, the history of the house, and the area of Hillsborough, North Carolina – call us at (212) 369-4460 to order a copy of The Kirklands of Ayr Mount by Jean Bradley Anderson.

Ayr Mount is open daily now through December 20th. After the winter break, it will re-open in the spring of late March 2012. Go to www.classicalamericanhomes.org or call (919) 732-6886 for more details and directions.

Autumn Scenes from Ayr Mount

Brilliant colors on the grounds of Ayr Mount.

Wrought iron fencework surrounds the Kirkland family cemetery.

Before cleaning. Tombstone cleaning began this summer - a slow but worthwhile process. We anticipate completion by the summer of 2012.

Tombstones after receiving four cleanings.

The lamb gravestone identifies Charles Manly (1855–1856), son of Elizabeth Simpson Kirkland’s sister Sarah and Matthias Manly.

View of the Kirkland cemetery at Ayr Mount.
History comes home to Millford

Classical American Homes has recently been given an extraordinary gift of historic photographs that relate to Millford from one of its generous descendants, Katherine Williams Patterson, great-great-great-granddaughter of John Laurence Manning and Sally Bland Clark Manning. Returning original objects to CAHPT’s historic houses is an important part of our mission and we are thrilled about this recent gift. At right is a reprint of the façade of Millford taken perhaps at the end, or after, the Civil War, as identified by the individuals and their clothing, seen on the front steps.

Two larger photographs on cardboard mounts, measuring 6 1/4" x 8 1/4" were taken by a professional photography studio, Snyder Gallery of Camden, S.C. which was active c. 1902–1910. It was then succeeded by Camden Studio, which may have continued under that name until about 1914. On the back of one of Snyder’s photographs of Millford’s exterior is a handwritten date of 1903. The second photograph, seen at left, also taken by Snyder Gallery is of Millford’s double drawing room, perhaps of the same date, and is invaluable in documenting the furniture, carpet, portrait, porcelain, and other objects that were in the room. Most of the furniture is in slipcovers but still can be identified, see at right. The chair under the slipcovers shown below, is one of a set of ten Phyfe rosewood side chairs with pierced gothic back splats commissioned for Millford by the Mannings and one of which will be loaned to the upcoming Phyfe exhibition at The Met.

A group of three black and white photographs of Millford’s exteriors and Spring House, seen in the column at right, were amateur shots taken in the early 1920’s, identified in pencil by a date of 1923, on the verso of one print and signed with the name “Coursen”. They are printed in a 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" format. The Spring House is a copy of Trinity Church in Columbia, S.C. These photographs will be on display at Millford and available to scholars for study.

Millford continues to be Open for Public Tours on the first Saturday of every month and Open for Group Tours throughout the year. Call (803) 452-6194 to schedule your preferred tour date and time, or please visit our website for more details on tour information for Millford.
Visit this Special Exhibition

Duncan Phyfe: Master Cabinetmaker in New York
at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC

December 20, 2011 – May 6, 2012

Monday night was the opening of the long-awaited exhibition, “Duncan Phyfe: Master Cabinetmaker in New York” at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. It was an exciting evening to say the least! Between seeing the nine objects from our collection on loan to the show (we’ll get to that later), it was wonderful to see friends, CAHPT Board members and the hard-working and glowing curatorial team – Peter Kenny, Michael Brown, Frances Bretter, and Matthew Thurlow.

It is an exhibition that presents exciting new scholarship on Duncan Phyfe (1768–1854), with objects that have appeared on the scene for the first time, along with many iconic ones.

We really encourage you to go to the exhibition which runs until May 6, 2012 and then travels to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, from June 20, 2012 to September 11, 2012. In the exhibition, we have loaned both portraits and furniture from Edgewater and Millford Plantation – the furniture all being commissioned from Phyfe with documentation. Look for them!

Guests at the opening looking at the Phyfe pieces commissioned by the Donaldsons from 1822–26.

Portrait of Robert Donaldson above a Phyfe recamier owned by him.

Nonnie Frelinghuysen, a Curator of the American Wing, and Leigh Keno, founder Keno Auctions.

Guests fill up the galleries at The Met.

Portrait of Mrs. Robert Donaldson behind two Phyfe signed window benches and her 19th century harp.

Peter Kenny, Co-Curator of the Phyfe exhibition and Curator of the American Wing at The Met, and Buddy Jenrette, Vice President of the CAHPT board.
Fife Fun Facts – Test your IQ! – True or False

1. His real last name was Fife.
2. His wife, Rachel Louzada, was a Sephardic Jew whose family was also involved in furniture making.
3. He was a warm and fuzzy guy who adored his clients and spent hours chatting with them.
4. All Phyfe's furniture was produced in his workshop.
5. There are many labeled Phyfe pieces.
7. The suite of furniture made for Robert Donaldson sank in the Cape Fear River in NC and was never recovered.
8. He died penniless.
9. Peter Kenny, Michael Brown, Frances Bretter and Matthew Thurlow should be congratulated on this extraordinary show and catalogue.
10. We recommend a neat glass of a single-malt Scotch while reading the catalogue.

Answers to Fife Fun Facts

1. True – He changed it later to Phyfe to add sophistication.
2. True – Her relative Isaac Louzada was a New York City cabinetmaker.
3. False – He was prickly and not especially attuned to his clientele. He did not deliver precise drawings nor desired delivery dates.
4. False – Outsourcing was done for more elaborately carved pieces.
5. False – There are only a few labeled Phyfe pieces. Check the Phyfe Catalogue for a complete record.
6. False – There is no known portrait or image of him. The exhibition does have his workbench on loan from the New-York Historical Society and also his spectacles.
7. False – It was fully recovered due to Phyfe's fine craftsmanship, however, the damask was ruined.
8. False – His keen business sense was reflected in the fact that he accumulated a lot of real estate which not only produced income for him, which was welcome during the vicissitudes of the economy, but also left him a wealthy man at his death.
9. ABSolutely True – be sure to purchase a copy!
   Special rate - $52.
10. True – Cheers!

Duncan Phyfe: Master Cabinetmaker
in New York Exhibition Catalogue

Speaking of the catalogue, it is carefully researched and well written, with exquisite photography. A MUST READ. The cover price of the catalogue is $65, and we are offering it for a special rate of $52, plus shipping and handling.

This richly illustrated volume covers the full chronological sweep of the craftsman's distinguished career, from his earliest furniture – which bears the influence of his 18th century British predecessors Thomas Sheraton and Thomas Hope – to his late simplified designs in the Grecian Plain. More than sixty works by Phyfe and his workshop are highlighted, including rarely seen pieces from private collections and several newly discovered documented works. Additionally, essays by leading scholars bring to light new information on Phyfe's life, his workshop production, and his roster of illustrious patrons. What unfolds is the story of Phyfe's remarkable transformation from a young immigrant craftsman to an accomplished master cabinetmaker and an American icon.

312 pages, 340 full-color illustrations. 9 1/2” x 12”. Hardcover, clothbound.
The Antiques Season

Feature article on Richard H. Jenrette’s preservation work and Edgewater on the Hudson River

Don’t wait – pick up a copy of the current issue of The Magazine ANTIQUES, which includes a feature article on Dick Jenrette, the founder and president of Classical American Homes Preservation Trust, and the aims of our foundation through the lens of one of his historic house museums – Edgewater, located in upstate New York. Interviewed on-site and written by Laura Beach, accompanied with photographs by Gavin Ashworth, this article captures the passion, deep commitment, and modesty of a Wall Street legend who has gone on to dedicate his time and energies to preserving key examples of our nation’s heritage, especially its classical architecture and arts.

To read the article, go to our website and download a copy from our homepage. Laura’s writing and Gavin’s photographs are extraordinary; along with Betsy Pochoda’s insightful Editor’s Letter, which we can promise you, won’t disappoint.

Many thanks to Betsy Pochoda, Laura Beach, Gavin Ashworth, and Eleanor Gustafson for this special article on Edgewater, the second in twenty years in ANTIQUES.

Opening night at the Winter Antiques Show

Maureen and Richard Chilton, CAHPT Board Director.

Peter Kenny, The Met’s Curator of Decorative Arts and Co-curator of the current Phyfe show, and Carly Berlin.

William Singer and Catherine Sweeney Singer, Executive Director of the Winter Antiques Show.

Historic Hudson Valley’s loan exhibition.

Carswell Berlin’s booth.

Susan Stein, Monticello’s Sr. Curator / VP Museum Programs, and Gloria Callen, CAHPT Friend & Supporter.
Tonight is the Opening of the long-anticipated Winter Antiques Show. Traditionally, it seems like there is some kind of frozen weather condition at the Opening, but tonight is clear, albeit chilly, but another condition prevailed. It was the presence of the President. Yes, President Obama was in the neighborhood, dining at Daniel, which tangled up some traffic, but not for long, and nothing that required a snow plow. The Winter Antiques Show was presidential, indeed, and is considered the “best of the best” – in its 58th year with 75 exhibitors with one third representing Americana, and the others featuring English, European and Asian fine and decorative arts. This year's loan exhibition, “Celebrating Historic Hudson Valley at 60: Rockefeller Patronage in Sleepy Hollow Country”, highlights the 60th Anniversary of John D. Rockefeller, Jr.'s founding of the nonprofit organization Historic Hudson Valley. The exhibition has on display fine and decorative arts from Phillipsburg Manor, Van Cortlandt Manor, Washington Irving's Sunnyside, the Union Church of Pocantico Hills, and Montgomery Place (a neighbor of Edgewater).

Go to their excellent website, www.winterantiqueshow.com, for an in-depth look. The beneficiary is East Side Settlement House, whose focus is to provide residents of the South Bronx with educational and technology skills they need in order to realize their dreams for a better life. To donate go to www.eastsidehouse.org/eshdonations.

Opening of The New American Wing at The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Starting Tuesday, January 17th, 2012 at Fifth Avenue & 82nd Street, NYC

Red, white and blue lights filled the grand staircase inside the main entrance of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, celebrating the opening of the New American Wing Galleries for Painting, Sculpture, and Decorative Arts on Tuesday night, January 17th. This marks the final stage of a multi-phase project over eight years in the making. “Sensational” is what Holland Cotter of the New York Times called the new galleries, and we would have to agree. The architects, Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates, created 26 galleries on one floor with long vistas of chronologically and thematically placed art in approximately 30,000 square feet.

The first eight rooms, the Anthony W. and Lulu C. Wang Galleries of Eighteenth-Century American Art, showcase the colonial and early Federal period arts, with a particular focus on furniture, silver, and paintings. The remaining eighteen rooms, The Joan Whitney Payson Galleries, showcase the Museum’s collection of American paintings of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, together with important examples of American sculpture. Don't forget to stop by and see the extraordinary show – Duncan Phyfe: Master Cabinetmaker in New York – nearby in the American Wing.
Friends of Millford Benefit
April 1st lunch and lecture by Peter Kenny

What a spectacular day we had for our first Friends of Millford benefit on April 1st. Over one-hundred guests arrived at Millford on a perfect spring day – the weather gods were definitely with us that day – blue skies, blooming azaleas and dogwood, a chance to wander around the gardens and see the house from all points of view. The interior of Millford was also open for viewing before a delicious luncheon, provided by Jimmy Stevenson and The Southern Way, was served on the oval-shaped Duncan Phyfe table in the dining room. The floor to ceiling windows in all four main rooms were raised high to allow circulation of both the guests in and out of the house and a gentle breeze. Tables were placed in the Entrance Hall, under the tall columned portico, and on the back porch with dangling wisteria. It was wonderful to see Millford full of friends and activity.

After lunch, Dick Jenrette again welcomed everyone to Millford, including the more than a dozen Hampton and Manning family descendants who were asked to stand up. He also introduced the newly formed Friends of Millford and its Co-Chairs, Lee Manigault of Charleston and Kirkman Finlay from Columbia.

The Friends of Millford are being organized as a group of supporters who share a deep appreciation for Millford and are interested in preserving its legacy for the future. Throughout the year, the Friends will be invited to participate in various social, education and cultural events at Millford and other Classical American Homes’ properties. We want to invite you to become a Friend of Millford with a contribution of $1000. Please join! Your tax-deductible donation will go directly to support Millford – including the maintenance of the house and its collection as well as the development of special events and public programs. As a National Historic Landmark and one of the finest examples of Greek revival residential architecture in America, Millford is an exceptional part of our heritage that draws visitors, scholars, collectors, and students from across the country. We hope you will join us in preserving and protecting this unique site.

Margize Howell, Executive Director, introduced Peter Kenny, The Ruth Bigelow Wriston Curator and Administrator (above) at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. She expressed how special it was to have Peter here at Millford, especially after his terrific Phyfe lecture at Edgewater last fall. Before Peter started, Morrie Heckscher, Chairman of The American Wing at The Met, graciously thanked Dick for his friendship and generosity to the American Wing over the years.

Several of the guests commented on the rarity to see original Phyfe furniture in situ. They added that the Millford “experience” of the furniture's scale and chaste polished veneers in relation to Millford's sixteen-foot ceilings and the richly decorated interior architecture was extraordinary.
Returning Home

Documents, furniture, and objects belonging to John Manning find their way back to Millford

Between 1840 and 1844, the Mannings placed four separate orders with Duncan Phyfe & Son, totaling seventy-two individual pieces for Millford Plantation. Over fifty D. Phyfe & Son objects remain at Millford today.

June 2, 1841 bill of lading:
Duncan Phyfe sent a bill of lading to John Laurence Manning, itemizing 47 boxes of Phyfe & Son furniture ordered for Millford. This document is an evocative resource, enriching our understanding of many of the original pieces of furniture found in Millford. With this document, we see both what kind of furniture was in the house, and in some cases, what type of wood that furniture was made of, giving us a revealing glimpse into the material world of the Mannings. This letter was acquired from Katherine Williams Patterson, great-great-great-great granddaughter of Gov. John Laurence Manning and Sally Bland Clarke.

September 11, 1841 letter:
Just a few months after Phyfe sent the bill of lading detailing the contents of 47 boxes of furniture, he wrote to John Laurence Manning again to say that the company had shipped 39 boxes to Manning’s agent in Charleston. Phyfe also offered practical advice, suggesting that since the boxes would be left in Charleston until spring, that the furniture should be unpacked and left in a dry room, avoiding damage from the humid local climate, “or the beauty will be marred and the furniture itself injured.” This letter was generously given by Katherine Williams Patterson.

Water pitcher:
This sterling coin silver water pitcher belonged to John Laurence Manning and his wife, Susan Hampton Manning. Decorated with floral motifs and engraved with the initial “M,” the pitcher bears the mark of Wood and Hughes, a New York based silver company. According to family lore, the pitcher, along with the rest of the family silver, was buried in a creek bed during the Civil War, and was retrieved after the troops departed. It is on loan to Classical American Homes Preservation Trust from Manning descendents, William and Susan Manning. This is the second piece the Mannings have loaned to Millford; in 2001 they loaned a George P.A. Healy portrait of their ancestor Richard I. Manning, currently on view in Millford’s entrance hall.

French bedstead:
This mahogany bedstead is of one of many items that the Mannings ordered from Phyfe & Son when they furnished Millford. Also known as a sleigh bed, this form was popular in nineteenth-century American homes. These beds were usually placed parallel to the wall, and the bed curtains were suspended from a canopy hung from the ceiling. This bed, and another Phyfe bedstead, was generously given by Clark family members Lucy Clark Dougherty and Carolyn Clark Fulcher.

Like many of the Phyfe & Son pieces at Millford, the bedstead can be found on the June 2nd, 1841 bill of lading. The Metropolitan Museum of Art owns another Manning bed produced by Phyfe & Son; while similar in style to this bedstead, the Met's version is made of rosewood, not mahogany.

For more information on Millford and how to visit, please go to our website for more details.
Quotes from the day at Millford

“It was an absolutely delightful afternoon in the ‘country,’ made further enjoyable by being amongst such beautiful grounds, furnishings, and people. The food was divine, and the conversation stimulating.”

Brian J. Lang, Curator of Decorative Arts, Columbia Museum of Art

“The house and grounds and collections looked lovely, and a wonderful group you had on hand to enjoy them. I enjoyed seeing Morrie Heckscher and Peter Kenny and appreciated their remarks and their tour.”

George McDaniel, Executive Director, Drayton Hall

“Millford, CAHPT, and Duncan Phyfe were certainly given due praise and recognition by both Peter Kenny and guests. Everybody I spoke to had a wonderful time. I was fascinated by the historical context of Gov. Manning’s interactions with Duncan Phyfe.”

Christina Clark

Friends of Millford Benefit
More from our April 1st Lunch and Lecture

Clockwise from Cissy Shull, (back to us), Fred Rhodes, Stanley Hubbard, Marcia Bowers, Tate Bowers, Laura Rhodes, and Rush Shull.

Peter Kenny and Mary Sue McDaniel.

Lee Manigault, co-chair Friends of Millford, William Banks and Peter Kenny.

Manning descendants: Kathy Hill, Kate Patterson and son Andrew Patterson, Coy Hill with Peter Kenny.

Dick Jenrette, Margize Howell, Peter Kenny, Bill Thompson.

Spotswood Box and Claire Efird.

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