

A Party for a Purpose – Linden Place’s Derby Day Party raises \$35,000



Close to 200 guests gathered at Linden Place in their seersucker and big hats for the 5th annual Kentucky Derby Day party on May 6th. This day of southern-inspired foods, mint juleps, live streaming of the 149th Kentucky Derby and dancing raised more than \$35,000 for Linden Place’s educational outreach and preservation projects.



Fabulous food and drinks were graciously provided by Russell Morin Catering & Events and, thanks to the Linden Place Board of Directors, the Bourbon tasting table featured unusual and hard-to-find brands. This year, the event featured, for the first time, an after-party that kept guests dancing into the night to the Downcity Band.



“The planning committee truly outdid themselves,” said Susan Battle, Executive Director of Linden Place, noting that the committee not only planned and executed the fun décor and the day’s many entertaining elements, but also arranged for the very successful silent and live auctions and giving portions of the fundraiser.

“Thanks to the generous individual and corporate sponsors, Derby Day was a huge success for our museum giving us the opportunity to bring about more educational programming and kick-start our fund to restore our 18th century garden house,” said Battle.

Next year’s party, which will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Kentucky Derby, promises to be an even bigger celebration, so mark your calendars for Saturday, May 4, 2024!



**Thank you to Linden Place’s Derby Day Sponsors
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2023 Recent Events

Dr. DAVID BLIGHT

On Sunday February 26th Linden Place was delighted to welcome Dr. David Blight, Sterling Professor of History at Yale University, Executive Director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition, and Pulitzer-Prize winning author of “Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom.” His keynote address was preceded by two events at the Rogers Free Library: a screening and discussion of the HBO documentary “Douglass in Five Speeches” and a book club style reading and conversation about Douglass’ autobiography “Narrative of the Life.” Dr. Blight centered his remarks around the efforts of Yale University to write a narrative history of its connection to the Transatlantic Human Trade, and to commend Linden Place for the work it has done in expanding its own story to be more inclusive and nuanced.

We thank our education partner the Rogers Free Public Library, and for the display of the Timeline of Enslavement, the Bristol Historical and Preservation Society, and our generous event sponsor, BankNewport.



Dr. SCOTT MOLLOY ON JOSEPH BANIGAN

Most of us know the story of Samuel Pomeroy Colt, President of the United States Rubber Company. But many do not know that the first President of that cartel was Joseph Banigan, an Irish immigrant who founded the Woonsocket Rubber Company and who was the first Irish Catholic millionaire of Rhode Island. In March URI Professor of Labor and Industrial Relations and master storyteller Dr. Scott Molloy shared the fascinating story of Mr. Banigan and how it intertwined with the Industrial Revolution, labor unrest, the Town of Bristol – and Samuel Pomeroy Colt.

The audience enjoyed a spot of tea and scones – and then were treated to the step dancing talent of the Clan Lir Dance Academy.

Thanks to a grant from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, the program was offered by Linden Place free to the public.



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Coming Attractions

The Amazing Annual 4th of July Parade and Picnic

The Grand Marshall has been chosen, the bands are lined up, the marchers are limbered up – and it’s time to get your front row seat to the world-famous Bristol 4th of July Parade. Our tickets sell out each year, so do not delay! On the Linden Place front lawn, bleachers are set up for viewing, tables are set up for breakfast and lunch, and the gardens are yours to enjoy until you hear the sirens getting closer and closer – a sure sign that the parade is about to pass by. Tickets are \$100 for nonmembers \$90 for members, children under 5 are free (but make sure you bring the snacks that they love to eat!) Tickets for adults include breakfast and lunch and you can choose the sandwich that works for you. Details are on our website Event page, or call the office 401.253.0390 with any and all questions.



Community Reading of Frederick Douglass’s 4th of July Speech – Sunday July 9 at 4 pm



Join community members as we read the profound words that Douglass delivered to the Rochester Ladies Anti-Slavery Society in 1852. You may choose to step up to the mic and read, or simply listen and bear witness. The outdoor reading will begin at 4 but we can move inside the ballroom if the weather does not cooperate.

After the reading, stay for a while and enjoy light refreshments and community conversation. The event is free but we do ask that you register to hold a space at lindenplace.org/events-calendar.

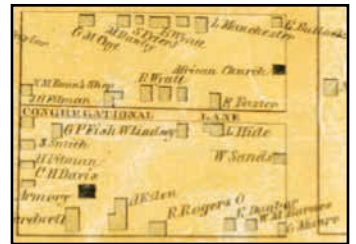
Slave Trade History Walking Tours – Select Thursdays during the summer

The tours start with a visit to Linden Place, and then walk downtown Bristol as the docent shares the story of the Transatlantic Human Trade and the roles that the families of Bristol played in the business of slavery. The tour is \$20, \$15 for members, they are limited to 15 people, and last about 90 minutes. Visit www.lindenplace.org/events-calendar for dates and details and to reserve a space. Tours are scheduled for July 13 and 27; August 10 and 27, and September 7.



The 1850 Free Black Community of New Goree – Walking Wood Street

With information from the 1850 census and an 1851 map from the Levanthal Collection, join a Linden Place docent and walk the area along Wood Street where the free black community of Bristol built a beloved community. Learn about the residents, hear about the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and see the imprint of later immigrants to this area of Bristol. Group is limited to 18 people. 10 am to 11:30 am; the walk is a little over a mile and begins outside the First Congregational Church on High at Bradford and ends on Wood at Bradford. Weather updates/concerns will be posted on our Facebook page. Saturday, August 12 and Saturday, September 23.



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Bristol-Warren Art Night – Thursday, July 27

In its 12th summer season, Art Night Bristol Warren celebrates local artists on the last Thursday of each summer month. The 2023 dates are May 25, June 29, July 27 and August 31. Linden Place hosts the July event which will feature the healing and performance art of The Haus of Glitter. This community of creative activists performed this past March at a convening of descendants of the enslaved hosted by the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Visit lindenplace.org for all the details of what will be an extraordinary experience.



The Summer House

In the midst of Linden Place's garden stands a centuries-old summer house: doors and windows on each side of an octagonal structure beneath a copper roof. The center of serenity. Summer houses are small, well-adorned structures built for the purpose of leisurely lounging in the garden during warm weather. They were fixtures in wealthy western gardens for decades, appearing in architectural dictionaries as early as 1756. English nobles were especially fond of summer houses since they followed the trend of building "follies" - ornate garden structures meant to provide a sense of grandeur.

Charles DeWolf (father of Linden Place's creator, George) had this summer house built on his property at Thames Street at some point before 1785. Upon Charles's death in 1822, his brother James DeWolf purchased the property and, in turn, the summer house which stood on the edge of his elaborate garden. Shortly afterwards, Captain Joseph Gardner purchased the property to set up his saw mill. A Christmas Day fire in 1853 burned Charles's mansion to the ground; the summer house survived. It could be that it was the only relic of the original DeWolf mansion because it was already on another estate.

While for many years it was suspected that Gardner took hold of the summer house as his personal property, recent research into the Bristol Phoenix has proved otherwise.

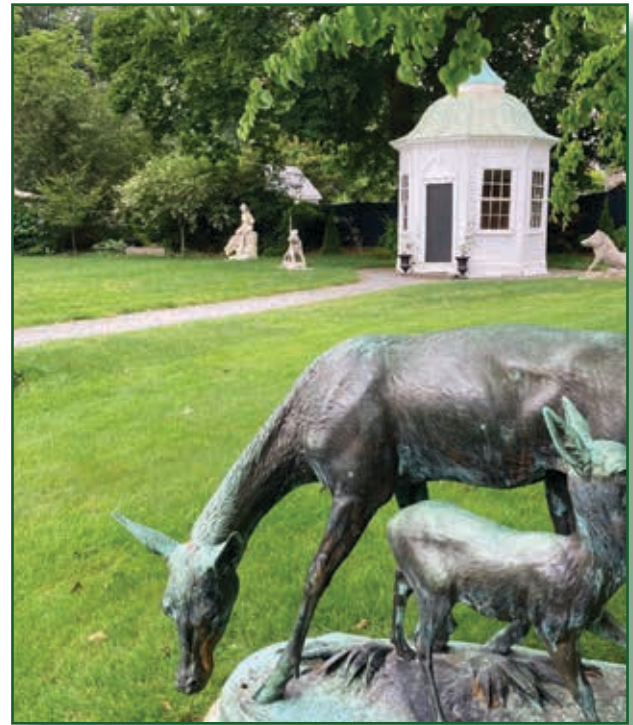
"The summer house on the Capt. Collins estate, recently purchased by Dr. J.C. Gallup, has been sold to Col. Samuel P. Colt, and has been removed to the rounds at Linden Place. This building has quite a history. It was built by Gen. Charles DeWolf, ... It was bought by Capt. Joseph I. Gardner and removed to the present site by him, he being the former owner of the Collins estate. Is surmounted by a curiously carved figure, which will be gilded and placed on the summer house on the front lawn at Linden Place." (June 14, 1899 Bristol Phoenix, pg 2.)

An illustration from an 1880 chronicle of Bristol's history verifies the Phoenix article. Captain John Collins, owner of a local ice plant, had it at his home at 617 Hope Street (not far from Linden Place). Capt. Collins's death in the late 1890's prompted Colonel Samuel P. Colt to purchase his great-grandfather Charles's summer house from the Collins's estate, bringing it to its current site.

Today, the DeWolf's summer house miraculously remains intact. It is one of only two existing structures of its kind throughout the whole of Rhode Island (the other 18th-century summer house is at Newport's Redwood Library.)

Currently plans are underway to restore the summer house to a usable state for guests to enjoy - a lovely refuge in the garden; a place to write a poem, read a book and perhaps contemplate the storied history of the DeWolf family.

By Nathan Demoura who is a student at Wheaton College in Norton, MA, where he is majoring in History. He has been a student intern at Linden Place for the past year.



The Summer House on the grounds of Linden Place. A major restoration project is in the works for this charming 18th century structure, built by Charles DeWolf, father of Linden Place's builder, George.



*Linden Place's summer house on Captain John Collins's property at 617 Hope Street (on right side of image above). The house was moved from its original location on Thames Street to the Hope Street location sometime in the mid-nineteenth century. From *The History of Bristol, R.I. The Story of the Mount Hope Lands*; Wilfred Harold Munro; Providence, 1880.*



Thank you to the employees of Roger Williams University who volunteered to help out in our gardens on June 14, 2023. Volunteers assisted in weeding, pruning of shrubs, and planted 4 flats of pink Begonias and moved some flowering Beardtongue to our Ros Bosworth Memorial Garden. We extend our appreciation to each and every R.W.U. volunteer and additionally Linden Place's volunteer garden crew, for their exceptional contributions to keep our gardens vibrant and beautiful.



Annual L.P. Easter Egg Hunt



The Easter Bunny welcomed over 125 children to Linden Place to celebrate on a lovely April spring day. Participants enjoyed a variety of activities – from making a special craft to take home, to navigating the egg and spoon race, to making sure they found one of each of five colored eggs for their basket. When all tasks were accomplished, the Bunny was ready for a close-up, and to share a Bunny Bag of sweet treats for each child to take home. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who came along to enjoy the day. Linden Place is grateful to our sponsor, the Rotary Club of Bristol, for supporting the event. And most importantly, we are thankful for all of our amazing volunteers who helped cut and glue and weave and color and race and gather and photo and pose - and make sure everyone had an “egg-cellent” time!



Myths Around the House - The Button in the Newel Post

Have you seen one? The button in the newel post. The visual “boast” that the mortgage has been paid?

Actually the knob is just a decorative way to cover up the joinery.

Enjoy this interesting article from History Myths Debunked. <https://historymyths.wordpress.com/tag/mortgage-button/>

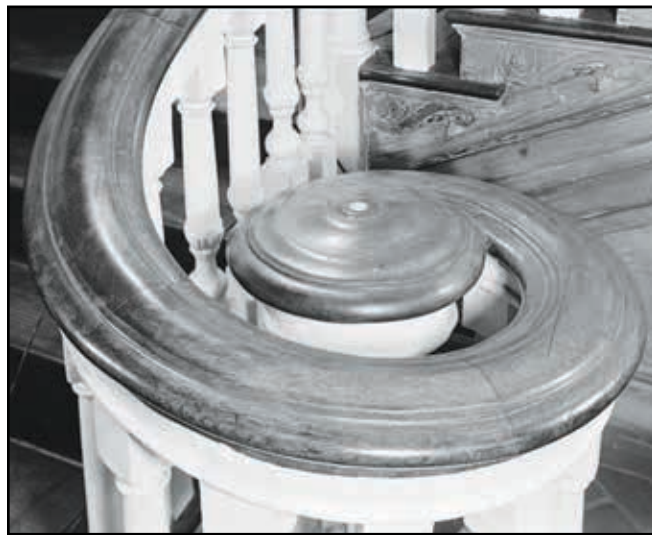
The mortgage button is one of history’s more enduring myths. You will hear it told in many historic houses, and believe it or not, there are actually companies that sell “mortgage buttons” so you can install one on your newel post to show all your friends that there is no lien on your property. Buy one if you like—there’s no law against silliness—but I know of no instance where mortgage documents, or anything else, have been discovered rolled up inside the newel post of an old house. Nor do any of the architectural historians at Colonial Williamsburg.

Usually the myth claims that this is a long-standing New England tradition (or old British tradition) dating from the 17th century. Some say it originated in Nantucket. Supposedly, when the house’s mortgage was fully paid, the homeowner drilled a hole in the newel post of the main staircase, rolled up the mortgage document, put it inside, and capped the hole with a decorative plug. Or they burned the document and stashed the ashes. And some people do this today because they’ve heard the myth.

Trouble is, mortgages didn’t exist in the 17th century. Or the 18th. Heck, banks didn’t exist in America in the 17th or 18th centuries! Real property has been used as collateral for debt for centuries, but that isn’t a mortgage. In the nineteenth century, mortgages (and banks) did exist. Homes were typically financed by a three-to-five-year balloon loan where homeowners made interest-only payments for the duration, then could roll them over into a new loan when they came due. Mortgages as we know them didn’t exist until the creation of the FHA in 1934. As Time magazine says in its 9/6/10 issue, “The thirty-year mortgage was a revolution, a stark contrast to the short-term loans that had been the norm until then.”

The late Charles Peterson, preservationist and architectural historian who conceived of the HABS project during the Depression, tried for years to find historic proof for this legend. He noted that some Philadelphia homes from the colonial period had ivory “amity” buttons in their newel posts, supposedly put there by the Quaker builder when the owner had paid his debt.

“Unfortunately, Charlie Peterson couldn’t find any evidence for the truth of this fable, and you can be sure he subjected the matter to a totally dedicated search. You might think there would be some notations in the deeds, or in the correspondence of the day, or in the literature of the times. You would think that someone who repeats this tale would be able to relate where he got it, and that would lead to some letters in an attic, and that if you work hard enough, you will find it. But when the button matter came up, Mr. Peterson would suddenly become grim-lipped and sad, and repeat the mantra that there is no evidence to support the story. He even awarded prizes to architectural students for essays on newel posts, bannisters and stair rails, but no student essay ever turned up any authentication of the Amity Button story. Absence of evidence is of course not the same as evidence of absence, so it is remotely possible that the story will someday be vindicated.”



A long-standing myth states that the newel post’s button served as proof that the mortgage had been paid.

Linden Place receives gift of Lazar Raditz painting

By Christy Nadalin

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Linden Place has received a generous donation of a portrait of Herbert Marshall Howe, painted by the artist Lazar Raditz. Though both men hailed from Philadelphia, they had strong Bristol connections.

Industrialist Herbert Howe was a cousin and contemporary of Col. Colt and a practicing physician for several years in Philadelphia before turning his attention to managing his wife's family's interests in the coal and railroad industries. Howe, his wife Mary Fell, and their 6 children spent summers in Bristol at Ferrycliffe Farm.

Like Colt, Howe enjoyed raising Jersey cows, and maintained his herd on his farm on the site of what is now Roger Williams University. At one point, Howe owned most of the land in Bristol south of Griswold Ave., including Hog Island.

The gift of the painting was made by another Herbert Marshall Howe of Washington, DC; he is the grandson of Wallis Eastburn Howe, an architect who designed, among other notable local buildings, the ballroom at Linden Place, and the bank building at 601 Hope Street.

Howe's legacy in Bristol is still visible, most notably in the row of Linden trees that still runs down Ferry Road past Blithewold, and the Tiffany glass window at St. Michael's Church, dedicated to his father, Bishop Mark Anthony DeWolf Howe, and his son John Fell Howe, both who died in 1895.

Like Howe, the prominent Russian-born portraitist Lazar Raditz had a summer home in Bristol. He painted some of the most influential people of his era including members of the Rockefeller and Dupont families, Madam Chiang-Kai-Shek and many philanthropists, judges and other dignitaries. He taught at the Philadelphia Sketch Club and the Salmagundi Club in New York. His painting of Herbert Marshall Howe was first exhibited at the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts.



The Bathrooms of Linden Place

"If I had my life to live over again, I'd be a plumber."— Albert Einstein

A look into Linden Place's plumbing provides a clear, compelling lens into the daily lives of wealthy Americans in the early-20th century. With the conservatory bathroom undergoing renovation, the timing for such a survey seems appropriate, and it allows us to examine the characteristics of contemporary plumbing. Indoor bathrooms in houses had only recently become the new normal, but, usually, it would be only one room for the household to share. Colonel Samuel P. Colt's massive expansion of the mansion's bathrooms in 1904 saw an incredible influx of fine fixtures throughout the house to go along with several new bathrooms attached to each bedroom: an unprecedented layout.

The second floor contains the bathrooms of Colt, Ethel Barrymore, and the South East bathroom. Colt's bathroom, encircled by mirrors lining the walls, has a "Langham" model toilet from J.L. Mott Iron Works (a NY/NJ company established in 1828 that closed in the 1920's). The porcelain fixture was designed for compactness, so it is tankless with a flush button. Colt's sink and tub also carry Mott branding, and they match the "Victorian" and "Baronial" models respectively as seen in early 1900s Mott plumbing catalogs.

Ethel's bathroom (sometimes called the "skinny bathroom") is particularly narrow and connects Colt's bedroom to Ethel's bedroom with doorways on either side. The toilet in Ethel's bathroom was manufactured by Phillips Lead and Supply Company; a now defunct Providence-based hardware company also known as Philco. The toilet is equipped with a "Flushometer" which was a device invented in 1906 that enabled handles to flush tankless toilets. Ethel's bathroom, like Colt's, has a version of Mott's "Baronial" model tub. Also in Ethel's bathroom is a 1904 Thomas Maddock's Sons Company sink with replacement faucet handles and stand. This sink is notable for the fact that it has two faucets, one for hot water and one for cold, plus a middle faucet to control the stream.

The South East bathroom, located nearby the nursery and Elizabeth Bullock's bedroom, also has a 1904 Maddock sink and a "Baronial" tub. However, due to relatively recent replacements, the toilet is actually an American Standard model dating from the early 1980's. Furthermore, fixtures on the third floor include 1904 "Thomas Maddock" sinks in both the North West and South East bathrooms, another "Philco" toilet in the North West bathroom, and a needle shower. In the first floor conservatory's bathroom are two matching "Philco" sinks.

Visitors at Linden Place will immediately experience a sense of recognition when viewing the numerous bathrooms as they closely resemble the typical modern ones in both appearance and function. However, it is eye-opening to consider the amount of historical information which can be gleaned from a simple observation of the plumbing's setup, branding, and construction. Linden Place's history consists of countless broad stories and developments which sweep across continents as well as the seemingly small details held within each object in the museum.

By Nathan Demoura who is a student at Wheaton College in Norton, MA, where he is majoring in History. He has been a student intern at Linden Place for the past year.

Annual Writer's Residency at Linden Place



As the sun dropped low in the sky amidst the haze of wildfire smoke, a crowd of about 40 people gathered outside Linden Place to hear readings by the 2023 writers in residence last Thursday. As they moved en masse around the property, they sipped wine, beer, and lemonade from cups to be composted by Black Earth Compost and nibbled on pimento cheese and crackers from All Favorites Cafe. Emcee Anika Aldamuy Denise, an award-winning children's book author, opened the event discussing Linden Place's literary history. Standing by the rampant colt statues at the front entrance, Teresa DeFlicht read from her speculative nonfiction work about Samuel P. Colt's connection to the firearms industry. Galen Auer (standing in for Loren Walker) and Candace Nadine Breen read on the steps of the conservatory, respectively, excerpts from a Queer gothic romance novel whose matriarch is based on



Theodora DeWolf Colt and a short horror story that centers 19th century Black barber Daniel Tanner. Susan Resnick read a poem from the steps of the gift shop that examined wedding celebrations at sites of enslavement. Under a towering tree nearby, Ben Harvey (standing in for Cassandra Bousquet) read a series of poems about the house's history told from the perspective of the Lindens. In the driveway, in front of the Colt School, Erin Vachon's two sestina poems gave voice to Queer and



enslaved people erased from the museum's history. On the back steps of the house, Galen Auer delivered a reading from their short story that saw Linden Place as an NFT up for auction in a future reality. In the ballroom, the readings concluded with a short video of three



actresses reading Gail Burton's work, a series of letters exploring enslavement's impact on marriage and family. A robust community discussion and much praise for the writers followed, along with a silent auction for an overnight stay at the Bradford-Diamond-Norris House B&B. It was a moving, profound, and celebratory end to this year's residency program. More information can be found at LindenPlace.org/writers-residency.



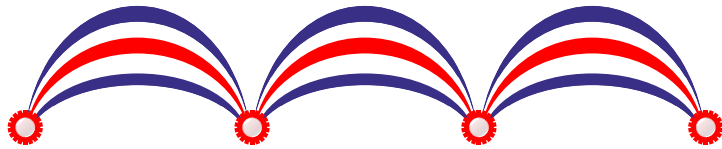
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Bristol 4th of July Parade in style
at historic Linden Place

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15% discount on museum store purchases.
Annual subscription to the *Linden Place News* newsletter
Admission to our exclusive members-only events
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