

Fall 2009

# The Palace

TRYON PALACE HISTORIC SITES & GARDENS



Celebrate  
An 18th Century Christmas  
At Tryon Palace

IN HISTORIC NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

December 1979

# The Past, the Present, the Future

This issue of *The Palace* magazine takes a look at artifacts, artisans and architecture of the distant past, events of the more recent past, current holiday preparations, and plans to complete the North Carolina History Education Center.

Making History for All People: The Public Campaign “Have a Seat” - put your name on a seat in the Cullman Performance Hall in the North Carolina History Education Center	p. 3
Linking the Past to the Future: Acquiring Artifacts for the North Carolina History Education Center – <i>Dean Knight</i>	p. 4,5
Lost and Found: Searching for Artifacts of New Bern’s African American Artisans – <i>Catherine W. Bishir</i>	p. 6,7
The Calendar: Fall 2009	p. 8,9
Christmas Then and Now	p. 10,11
Work of the Volunteers	p. 13
News of Our Friends	p. 14,15
New in the Shops: Treasured Gifts for Under \$10	Back Cover



*Holiday Preparations ca. 1989 – Susanna Talton, Susan Kennedy, Shirley Willis, Marnie Fertig*



*The French chef and his assistant prepare spices for the 2008 holiday celebration.*

## On the Cover – This Edition

On the cover are images from the promotional brochure cover for the 1979 debut of candlelight tours at Tryon Palace. Above and throughout the magazine are other images from previous celebrations.

## The Palace

*A Publication of the  
Tryon Palace Council of Friends*  
VOLUME 10 NUMBER 1 FALL 2009

*Publisher:* Karen O’Connell  
*Editors:* Cheryl Kite, Karen O’Connell  
*Contributors:* Catherine Bishir, Paul Brown, Fran Campbell, Cheryl Kite, Dean Knight, Karen O’Connell, Sandra Pinkham, Rebecca Reimer, Lisa Wimpfheimer  
*Photographers:* Nancy Hawley, Laura Poppe, and Al Hesketh (volunteer)  
*Historic Images:* from the Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens archives; J. Dean Knight, archivist  
*Graphic Artist:* Christine Farver, Inspired Publishing  
*Cover by:* Prisma Design

TRYON PALACE COUNCIL OF FRIENDS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

*President:* Patricia Naumann  
*Vice President:* Nancy Freemon  
Sallie Baxter  
Anne Bradford  
Carson Brice  
D. Hayes Clement  
Dr. Jeffrey Crow, *ex officio*  
Dr. Frank L. Eagles  
Judge John Patrick Exum  
Dr. Sam Gilmore  
Carole Beasley Kemp  
Bob Mattocks, *ex officio*  
Karen O’Connell, *ex officio*  
Mary Parrish  
Cece Scott  
Mary Silver  
Karen Skipper  
Jennifer Stallings  
Torrey Stroud  
Alice Tolson  
Karen Webb  
Helen White  
Kay P. Williams, *ex officio*  
Robert Zaytoun

*The Palace* is published four times a year by the Tryon Palace Council of Friends to provide information about and build support for Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Send correspondence to Karen O’Connell, *The Palace*, P.O. Box 1007, New Bern, NC 28563. E-mail: [koconnell@tryonpalace.org](mailto:koconnell@tryonpalace.org). Fax: 252-514-4876.

For more information about Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, click on our website at [www.tryonpalace.org](http://www.tryonpalace.org) or call 252-514-4900, 800-767-1560.

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is a part of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Linda Carlisle, Secretary. [www.ncculture.com](http://www.ncculture.com).



# Making History for All People

Developing dramatically in historic New Bern, the North Carolina History Education Center construction site is joining a town full of notable buildings and landmarks. The burgeoning construction on the waterfront is the next giant step for Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens in its mission to teach North Carolina history. The final segment of the project is scheduled for completion in mid-2010 during New Bern's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

At the same time, the last stage of the \$60.6 million *Making History Capital Campaign* for the Center is also in progress. With just over \$3 million left to raise, the Campaign is now in its public phase, "Making History for all People." Named to campaign leadership roles are Olivia Holding of Raleigh and Bill and Ann Cannon of Concord, NC. The three represent families that have for decades been at the forefront of the growth and success of Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens.

Ms. Holding, a graduate of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and George Washington University, is president of E & F Properties, Inc. and Twin States Farming, Inc. of Smithfield, and of Ella Ann L. & Frank B. Holding Foundation and North State Foundation. She was Capital Campaign Chair for the North Carolina Coastal Federation and serves on UNC Institute for the Environment and NC Aquarium Society. She is currently on the Tryon Palace Commission, maintaining a continual family presence on the Commission for more than 40 years. Her family provided a \$1 million lead endowment gift to the *Making History Campaign* from the Robert P. Holding Foundation and First Citizens Bank that will be used in perpetuity to fund programming in the North Carolina History Education Center. First Citizens Bank, founded by the Holding family and originally based in Smithfield, has for decades been a strong force in North Carolina's economy.

Mr. Cannon's grandmother, Ruth Coltrane Cannon, was a 1945 charter member of the Tryon Palace Commission. Her husband was president of Cannon Mills Company in Concord, NC, and she used her influence across the state for historic preservation, including her personal effort to raise funds for the main gates at the Palace. Bill, a member of the Tryon Palace Commission, is a graduate of Wake Forest University and president of The Cannon Foundation, Inc. Ann is past chair and current member of the CMC NorthEast Medical Center Foundation. They have a daughter, Leslie Ann, and a son, Will, who is serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Bill and Ann enjoy "lots of dogs and retired show horses." The Cannon Foundation and family have generously donated more than \$1.5 million to the *Making History Campaign*, which is funding the "Ruth and Charles A. Cannon Gateway to History", the orientation area of the History Education Center, and other construction needs.



*Campaign co-chairs Olivia Holding, Bill Cannon, Ann Cannon*

The North Carolina History Education Center is a 60,000-square-foot facility that will contain two major museums – one with historic North Carolina artifacts and the other an 1835 village with interactive activities for children, a rotating exhibit gallery, a performance hall, a great hall, and a café. It will become the new portal for all visitors to Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens.

Encompassing the restored colonial and first state capitol of North Carolina, Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens represents nearly a century of dedication to preserving the state's history. An effort that began in the early 1900s across

*continued on page 12*

## Have a Seat

The Nan and Hugh Cullman Performance Hall in the North Carolina History Education Center will introduce a state-of-the-art venue previously unknown in the New Bern area. Larry Barr has used the same high standards for structural and natural acoustic design that he used in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. The 202-seat Cullman Hall promises a first-class chamber experience for all who attend its events.

You are invited to join Nan, Hugh and Larry in creating this spectacular setting. "Have a Seat" in the Cullman Hall with a gift of \$1,000 for a theatre seat – and your name will be inscribed on it.

For more information about the Performance Hall or any other aspect of the *Making History Campaign* or the North Carolina History Education Center, please contact Director of Development Cheryl Kite at 252-514-4956 or [ckite@tryonpalace.org](mailto:ckite@tryonpalace.org).



# Linking the Past to the Future

## Acquiring Artifacts for the North Carolina History Education Center

By Dean Knight, Registrar and Archivist

For centuries people have been exploring the seas, mapping their journeys, and settling new lands. Once settled, people then reached out to areas near and far to buy goods to improve their lives; and they sold the goods they grew, built, or harvested from the land in order to buy more goods to improve their lives. It is a cycle that has been in place since man swung down out of the trees. How people got to these new places and how they mapped their routes is part of the story that will be told in the new North Carolina History Education Center. In order to better illustrate that story, tools, maps and pictures will be employed.

In planning the various exhibits in the History Education Center, we took several approaches to better tell the stories of exploration, settlement, and utilization of resources found in North Carolina by the early settlers. We looked at objects that were currently in our collection, we discussed stories and themes about the settlement and development of this area, and we developed lists of new stories and objects.

**Map.** The first of several objects recently acquired is a very rare map first drawn by John White ca.1585 and engraved by Theodore De Bry in 1590. Often referred to as *AMERICA*, this map is thought to be the first map to depict Carolina and considered by many to be the most detailed and proportionally correct map of the sixteenth century. John White was an artist who had accompanied Sir Walter Raleigh on his explorations of the New World and would later become the governor of the ill-fated colony on Roanoke Island. Theodore De Bry was an engraver and printer who transformed the drawings into etchings and then printed the maps. Copies of this map became very popular throughout Europe and it was used by many of the early explorers who sailed to the New World in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. However, the map alone was not sufficient to guide sailors over the seas. Several navigational tools used in conjunction with one another made it possible to sail the high seas with ever increasing accuracy.

To reach the New World, explorers

had to first cross three thousand miles of ocean. For two centuries prior to the publication of John White's map, explorers and merchants had been sailing north and south along the west coast of Europe and Africa, always in sight of land. With the knowledge of new lands came the challenge to sail west over a vast unknown ocean. To do this, new technology and science were needed, which - in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries - took the form of simple navigational tools.

**Octant.** The octant, developed independently in 1730 by John Hadley and Thomas Godfrey, was an instrument used to make angular measurements of celestial objects. It was triangular in form, and it had a scale and a series of mirrors that were used to take sightings of stars, planets, the moon or sun, and the apparent horizon. When two of these objects were sighted in the moveable reflecting mirrors, readings could be taken from a scale on the arched arm of the instrument. Calculations could be made using the principles of triangulation to fix one's location on a map or globe. An octant recently acquired by Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is made of ebony and brass with ivory inlay for the scale. It was made in England around the middle of the eighteenth century. Silver backed rotating mirrors and a shade that allowed the user to "shoot" a rising, noontime, or setting sun without damaging the eye are still fully operable. The worn hash marks and numerals on the ivory scale indicate that this octant was indeed much used and well cared for. It carries no makers mark.

**Chip Log, Ship Log.** The explorer looking for new lands or the eighteenth and nineteenth century merchant trying to find his way from port to port needed other tools to improve his accuracy in navigation. One tool which had been



Photographed by Tipton Gentry. Courtesy of Brunk Auctions, Asheville, NC

## Navigation Tools



*The chip log you see here is a replica constructed by master craftsman Kevin Swartz at TPHS&G. Shown also are the fourteen-second glass and octant.*

used in one form or another since man began sailing the seas was a chip log or ship log. Originally, a sailor would toss a chip of wood overboard and gauge how long it took to sail past the floating chip. They would then make a crude calculation and determine their speed. From this chip evolved the ship log. The ship log was comprised of four parts: a large wooden spool; a length of small rope; a wood chip; and a **fourteen-second glass**. Attached to the wooden spool was a length of small rope that had a series of knots tied in it at eight fathom intervals. This rope was tied to a specially fashioned wood “chip” in the form of a large triangle with one rounded side that was weighted with lead to make it float perpendicular to the water’s surface. The fourth component of this ensemble was a fourteen-second glass. The glass, in the form of the traditional hour glass, contained enough sand or crushed black marble to measure fourteen seconds of time.

Three seamen were needed to operate the ship log - this forerunner of the speedometer. The first man held the large spool of rope, the second man flipped the fourteen second glass and yelled “heave,” and the third man heaved the wooden “chip” overboard and let the rope run out through his hand. When the sand had run out of the glass, the second man with the glass would yell out “mark,” and the third man would grab the rope in his hand tightly. The “chip” would be pulled

back aboard ship and the knots tied in the rope at eight fathom intervals would be counted, and the ship’s speed through the water could be calculated in knots per hour. Hence, a ship’s speed long ago, as it is today, is measured in knots.

The one instrument absolutely necessary for truly accurate navigation is a compass. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries mariners used a dry card compass. This was a round disk marked with the cardinal points of north, east, south, and west, suspended on a thin shaft or needle, enclosed in a wood or metal box with a glass top. This was called a dry card compass because the card or disk did not float in a bath of oil or mineral spirits as did later compasses. Examples of this type of compass are extremely rare and Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens has been unsuccessful in attempts to obtain an example of this type of compass.

After the task of crossing the seas and navigating up or down the coast had been accomplished, it was necessary to then lay claim to the land and map out boundaries in order to ensure an orderly division of the New World. The art and science of surveying and mapping out boundaries go back to the time of the Pharaohs and beyond. The techniques have largely stayed the same, though the equipment has changed. Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens recently acquired a **surveyor’s compass** made by E & J. W. Blunt of New York. The surveying compass

## Land Survey Tools



*1820s Blunt compass: three sets of chains.*

does not have a date mark but based on company records of E. & J.W. Blunt Company, we can date the instrument between 1822 and 1825.

The compass would sit atop a wooden tripod and be leveled by a series of small spirit levels built into the compass. A surveyor would then sight down a line through the azimuth sighting arms to a man holding a range pole. The angle of direction would be read from the compass. The distance from the surveyor to the range pole would be measured by using a **set of chains** that consisted of fifty, eight-inch links. Tryon Palace has acquired three sets of chains, two marked “JC Chesterman, of Sheffield, England”, and a third set marked “T. F. Randolph, Cin [cinatti], O[hio]”. All three sets of chains are made of iron links and brass handles and marking tabs.

For example, the surveyor and his crew could measure boundary line distances 400 feet up the right hand side of a creek, then with the surveying compass they could turn an angle and measure 600 feet at 280 degrees north east, then 360 feet south at 190 degrees to a mature oak at the top of a ridge, then back 93 degrees east to the beginning point. These measurements could be drawn out on paper, labeled and properly oriented, and a settler would have a map to use in order to purchase or lay claim – or to “patent” - a parcel of land.

When Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens purchased its surveying compass, a small manuscript map was found inside the compass case folded up and used as a packing wedge. To date, we have not been able to locate exactly the parcel of land described on the map but continued research will eventually lead us to the mapped out parcel on Broad Creek.

Artifacts are essential tools we use to explain history. Some artifacts help us understand how tasks were accomplished, some artifacts demonstrate a certain level of artistic achievement reached in bygone eras, some artifacts challenge us to simply figure out what they are and how they were used, but

*continued on page 12*

# Lost and Found

## Searching for Artifacts of New Bern's African American Artisans

By Catherine W. Bishir

"LOST: A few weeks ago, between the Subscriber's House and Mr. Hall's Book store, a DIAMOND for cutting glass with a white bone handle, on which are inscribed the letters D M-- A reward of one Dollar and fifty Cents will be given to any person who shall restore it to the owner."

This advertisement, which appeared in the *New Bern True Republican* on April 2, 1810, described a valued personal object in vivid detail that suggests much about its owner. It was a specialized tool used for a single purpose, indicating that the owner or one of his workmen installed glass panes in windows and probably glazed them as well. Moreover, the diamond, coupled with the bone handle, showed that it was a tool of high quality; ordinary glass cutters might have wooden handles and metal heads. And the inscribed initials denoted its owner's attachment to this tool of his craft and perhaps a degree of pride in its possession. The reward of \$1.50 was a generous offer--at least three days' pay for a laborer, and a day's pay for a skilled tradesman.

I came across this advertisement while exploring the research files at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Winston-Salem, a trove of information as many readers of *The Palace* already know. It was an exciting find, because the man who signed the ad--the "DM" who lost the diamond glass cutter--was one of New Bern's leading artisans, the brick mason and plasterer Donum Montford (1771-1838), who had gained his freedom only six years before, in 1804, and became a substantial property owner. Although we know other facts about Montford's life, his advertisement and his glass cutter evoke much about him as a tradesman and an individual.

We don't know whether anyone found



*Judge Donnell House, formerly on the east side of the 700 block of Craven Street, built 1815-1819, destroyed by fire in 1972. Photograph ca. 1910 by the Wootten-Moulton Studio.*

*New Bern Firemen's Museum.*

the diamond glass cutter or returned it to its owner. Perhaps it still survives somewhere in a family collection or a museum--and perhaps after two centuries it may be "found" again.

This little lost object captures much about the challenges and rewards, the "lost" and the "found" of my current research project for Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. With a generous grant from The Wachovia Foundation, I have been exploring the history of African-American artisans in New Bern from before the American Revolution to the turn of the twentieth century. The project is planned to produce a book on the subject. New Bern is an ideal place for such a study, because of the city's tradition of craftsmanship in all trades and because of its strong African-American heritage from colonial times onward. Vital resources include the extensive research already done on New Bern history and the excellent local history collection at the Kellenberger Room of the Craven County Public Library.

In New Bern as in other locales, African American artisans worked

in a full range of skilled crafts. Most numerous were carpenters and coopers, but there were also many brick layers and plasterers, shoemakers, tailors and tailoresses, blacksmiths, boat-builders, chairmakers, carriage makers, wagon makers, wheelwrights, and others. Before freedom came, these artisans included both enslaved people and free people of color. New Bern artisans, whether born free or manumitted by their owners, figured among the antebellum city's most successful free people of color. Many of these artisans and their families left New Bern for better opportunities, especially in Cleveland and New Haven in the 1850s.

During and after the Civil War, scores of artisans of color worked in the city in all the essential trades, including many who had learned their skills during slavery. These artisans became important community leaders in politics, civic organizations, and churches. They included legislators, city councilmen, and founders and leaders of key organizations such as King Solomon Masonic Lodge, the first black Masonic lodge in the state.

Along with a few ministers and barbers, artisans predominated among the city's black leadership until the 1880s, when a younger generation entered the arena, including lawyers and teachers and others who had had unprecedented opportunities for education and professional occupations.

Documentary research has "found" much about the names, lives, careers, and families of New Bern's artisans of color. But, as Donum Montford's diamond glass cutter reminds us, much is still "lost." Most difficult to "find" are the material objects of these artisans' lives. Some families owned and handed down furniture, family Bibles, and papers including emancipation records, letters, and even portraits. Many artisans also handed down the tools of their trade--the blacksmith's tools, tailoring needles and scissors, shoemakers' lasts, carpenters' planes and chisels, masons' trowels, and more.

Especially important, artisans fashioned objects--artifacts--of all kinds. For a few men in the building trades, we can identify buildings they worked on

and point to their handiwork, perhaps at First Presbyterian Church or the Donnell House, but these examples are few. We hope in exploring the stories of New Bern artisans to locate other artifacts to illustrate their craftsmanship and their daily lives.

Some of these objects may be found in collections no longer associated with their makers or their families. Perhaps only a vague tradition links a hand-forged iron tool or hinge to a slave blacksmith, a shoe to an enslaved shoemaker, an elegant gown to a dressmaker of color, or a chair or cupboard to a black joiner. Even artifacts associated with a white artisan may have been the handiwork of workmen of color, for many white artisans owned or hired black artisans.

Occasionally black artisans' wills or estates papers mention specific possessions. In 1838, Donum Montford left to his wife Hannah a family Bible as well as mahogany furniture and silver spoons. After the deaths of dressmakers Catherine and Frances Stanly, daughters of the well-known entrepreneur John

Carruthers Stanly, the estate executor sent certain family treasures to their heirs in Ohio, including a family Bible and a silver milk pitcher and spoons and ladle. Do any of those survive in the hands of descendants across America?

It is likely that many other families possess treasures associated with New Bern artisan ancestors. Some may be descendents of antebellum artisans such as carpenter James York Green and tailor John Bragg, who spent their lives in New Bern. Others may descend from artisans who left the state, including Cicero Richardson, William and Richard Hancock, Thomas Newton, Alexander Newton, Richard and Robert Hazel, Freeman Morris, Rigdon Green, John P. Green (son of tailor John Rice Green and tailoress Temperance Green), and Sarah Bragg Stanly (daughter of tailor John Bragg).

Still others may descend from artisans who remained in New Bern through and after the Civil War, and those who came to the city in that period or entered their careers then. Some of the most prominent in that period were carpenters Joseph Green and Israel Abbott (son of Grace Green, Joseph's wife); coopers including Amos York, Edward M. Dudley, and George Willis; blacksmith George Fisher; painter John Randolph, Jr.; carriage and wagon maker Luke Mason; and brick masons Isaac Harris (Sr. and Jr.) and Isaac C. Rue (formerly owned by Donum Montford) and his grandson Edward A. Richardson.

For the artisans of the late nineteenth century, especially, there are descendants who still live in New Bern and others in other locales who maintain connections with the city and their families' histories--some of whom may own treasures from their ancestors' lives.

For many of New Bern's artisans of color, their stories and images, their tools and their creations may not have been "lost" at all. For all of them, there is still much to be "found."

If you have clues about the lives and artifacts of African American artisans in

*continued on page 12*



*Judge Donnell House, first floor drawing room. Photograph ca. 1936.  
Frances Benjamin Johnston, Library of Congress.*

# October

## Saturdays, October 3 and 17

### Tryon Palace Theater: I Thee Wedd

2:00 p.m. \$4 per adult, \$2 per student; FREE for Council of Friends members and Tryon Palace ticket holders.

#### Blacksmith Shop

Learn about 18<sup>th</sup> century wedding customs and join in the celebration as Rose, a servant of Governor Tryon, and Thomas start a new life together.

## Saturdays, October 3 and 17

### Architectural Walking Tour

2:00 p.m. \$2 per adult, \$1 per student; FREE for Tryon Palace Governors Pass holders and Council of Friends members with membership card

This guided tour departs from and returns to the New Bern Academy Museum. You will explore external architectural details of Victorian, Italianate, Federal, and Georgian homes built in late 1700 through early 1900 on Hancock, Johnson, Metcalf, and New Streets. Reservations are not required. Walking tour tickets may be purchased at the New Bern Academy.

## Saturday, October 3

### Home School Day

#### Theme: Step Into History

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. \$10 per student, \$12 per adult (tickets valid 2 consecutive days).

Home-school families enjoy interactive activities as well as tours of the Palace and three other historic homes in this popular event. Bring your picnic lunch and spend time immersed in the past. This year's focus will be on historical clothing and accessories. See dress-making and tailoring demonstrations, dress-up in colonial costumes, and make a variety of clothing craft items. Activities are designed for school-age children; some activities have a minimum age requirement. **Space is limited; pre-registration and pre-payment required by September 18. Call (252) 514-4935 to register.**

## Sunday, October 4

### Tryon Palace "Free Gardens" Sunday

1:00 – 6:00 p.m. FREE Garden Admission, Interior tours require the purchase of a ticket.

The gardens of Tryon Palace are open free for the public to enjoy all the flowers. A current list of what's blooming is posted on our website [www.tryonpalace.org](http://www.tryonpalace.org).

## Friday – Sunday, October 9 – 11

### MUM'S the Word!

Gardens open 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday. FREE Garden Admission, Interior tours require the purchase of a ticket.

During MUMfest Weekend, visitors to Tryon Palace will enjoy the beauty of thousands of chrysanthemums in the Palace gardens. Free garden tours will be given each day.

- **Heritage Plant Sale:** This popular and unique plant sale offers visitors the opportunity to purchase unique, rare, and historic plants for display in their home gardens. Master gardeners will be on hand to answer planting questions. Come early for the best selection! Sale hours are 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

- **Fife & Drum Corps Concerts:** Sunday 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Enjoy performances by the Tryon Palace Fife & Drum Corps. Concerts take place outside on the Palace grounds. (In case of inclement weather, performances will be held in the Visitor Center auditorium.)

## Thursday, October 15

### Parlor Talk

#### Speaker: Meghan Bishop, Tryon Palace Historic Interpreter "Pieces of the Past: A History of American Quilts"

12:00 noon. Commission House Parlor. FREE, Bring Your Own Lunch. Beverages will be provided.

American women have made quilts for centuries. Many of the patterns and styles we use today, inherited from our great-great grandmothers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, are pieces of our past. Come learn about the history of American quilts.

## Sunday, October 18

### African American Historic Downtown Walking Tour

2:00 p.m. \$4 per adult, \$2 per student  
Leaves from Visitor Center Lobby  
Learn about 300 years of African American history on a walking tour of New Bern's historic district. This tour lasts approximately 90 minutes and covers 16 blocks. **Reservations required: 252-514-4935. (Minimum Enrollment: 10)**

## Saturday, October 24

### Saturday Sampler: All About Tea

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. \$25 per person  
Program begins in Visitor Center Auditorium

On October 25, 1774 fifty-one women gathered in the Edenton home of Mrs. Elizabeth King, but this was no ordinary tea party. In response to the British Tea Act, these women signed an agreement to boycott British goods and "give memorable proof of their patriotism." In this special tour, you will explore the historical, social, and political importance of tea in colonial America. At the end of the program a 21<sup>st</sup>-century tea will be served. **Prepayment and reservations are required. Please call 252-514-4935. Registration is limited to 25 people. (Minimum enrollment: 10).**

# November

## Sundays, November 1 and 22

### Tryon Palace Theatre: Civil War Stories

2:00 p.m. FREE Visitor Center Auditorium  
Storyteller Terry Rollins shares tales relating to the Civil War, including a Civil War letter from a sixteen-year-old girl about the trials of battle happening around their home, the reason North Carolinians are called "Tar Heels" and a moving slave story from the African-American tradition. This 30-minute presentation is appropriate for ages 10 through adult.

## Saturdays, November 7 & 21

### Tryon Palace Theater: A Thanksgiving Proclamation

11:00 a.m. \$4 per adult, \$2 per student; FREE for Council of Friends members and Tryon Palace ticket holders. Visitor Center Auditorium  
Come meet President and Mrs. Lincoln as

they present the Thanksgiving Proclamation and discuss important issues of the day.

## Saturdays, November 7 & 21

### Architectural Walking Tour

2:00 p.m. \$2 per adult, \$1 per student; FREE for Tryon Palace Governors Pass holders and Council of Friends members with membership card

*This guided tour departs from and returns to the New Bern Academy Museum. You will explore external architectural details of Victorian, Italianate, Federal and Georgian homes built in late 1700 through early 1900 on Hancock, Johnson, Metcalf, and New Streets. Reservations are not required. Walking tour tickets may be purchased at the New Bern Academy.*

## Thursday, November 5

### Parlor Talk

**Speaker: Shirley Willis, Historic Foodways Expert** "The 18<sup>th</sup> Century Holiday Table"

12:00 p.m. FREE, Bring Your Own Lunch. Beverages will be provided. Commission House Parlor

*Feasts and parties were an integral part of the colonial and early American Christmas tradition. In this program, learn about the dishes and desserts that made for a joyous 18<sup>th</sup> century holiday celebration.*

## Saturday, November 14

### Garden Lecture

**Speaker: Nancy Carter Crump, Author** "Hearth Cooking"

10:00 a.m. FREE. Sponsored by the Harold H. Bate Foundation. Visitor Center Auditorium

*Hearthside cooking is the preparation of food over an open fire or on hot coals that are positioned in areas of the hearth in front of the fire. Nancy will describe recipes and techniques used at historic sites by museum interpreters who teach open-hearth cooking and by adventurous cooks who want to cook in their fireplaces at home or try the recipes in a modern setting.*

## Sunday, November 15

### African American Historic Downtown Walking Tour

2:00 p.m. \$4 per adult, \$2 per student  
Leaves from Visitor Center Lobby

*Learn about 300 years of African American history on a walking tour of New Bern's historic district. This is the last tour of the year. This tour lasts approximately 90 minutes and covers 16 blocks.*

**Reservations required: 252-514-4935. (Minimum Enrollment: 10)**

## Thursday, November 19

### African American Lecture

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Rob Smith, University of North Carolina at Charlotte** "Race, Labor and Civil Rights"

7:00 p.m. FREE. Visitor Center Auditorium

*Dr. Smith's lecture will focus on aspects related to race and law, particularly in reference to African Americans and legal and political developments*

## Thursday, November 26

**Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is closed in honor of the Thanksgiving holiday.**

## Friday – Sunday,

## November 27 – 29

### Festive Holiday Kick-Off

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Friday-Saturday, and 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Included with regular ticket purchase  
*Join us as we kick off the holiday season on Thanksgiving weekend. Holiday decorations are up in the Palace and in our three house museums. Holiday tours of the festooned gardens and bedecked halls and special activities officially launch us into the Holiday season. Performances will include:*

- *Simon Spalding will present a different themed one-man act each day that will be a mixture of character portrayal and music. Performances will take place in the Visitor Center Auditorium at 12:00 and 2:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2:30 and 4:00 p.m. on Sunday and will feature performances from the colonial (Friday), Civil War (Saturday), and Revolutionary War (Sunday) periods. Each performance will last approximately 45 minutes.*

- *Storyteller Terry Rollins will offer holiday stories in the Visitor Center Auditorium at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 1:30 p.m. on Sunday. Each session will last approximately 30 minutes.*

- *Musical group Thursday Morn' will present two 45-minute colonial concerts between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. on Sunday in the Carriage Bay of the Stable Office.*

# December

## Saturday, December 5

### Saturday Sampler

**'Twas the Night before Christmas**

1:00 p.m. \$4 per adult, \$2 per student; FREE for Council of Friends members and Tryon Palace ticket holders. Visitor Center Auditorium

*Get into the holiday spirit as you enjoy an entertaining performance of the Holiday classic 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, warm up with cider and cookies, and sing festive holiday carols.*

## Saturdays, December 12 & 19

### Architectural Walking Tour

1:30 p.m. \$2 per adult, \$1 per student; FREE for Tryon Palace Governors Pass holders and Council of Friends members with membership card

*On Saturday, December 12 and Saturday, December 19, tours will leave at 1:30 p.m. from the New Bern Academy Museum located at the corner of New and Hancock Streets. Call 252-514-4925 to make your reservations for a special Christmas tour and visualize how New Bern homes may have looked during a past yuletide season.*

## Saturdays, December 12 & 19

### Christmas Candlelight

5:00 – 9:00 p.m. Tickets will be sold for specific tour time slots. \$15 per adult, \$6 per student; FREE for Council of Friends members

*Costumed guides will escort visitors through the first floor and cellar of the Palace and Kitchen Office, which will be outfitted for the holidays and lit with candle globes and fire baskets to create an ambiance of times past. Music and entertainment will take place throughout the Palace and gardens with costumed dancers, musicians, and dynamic performers giving shows of acrobatics, juggling, sword swallowing and*

*continued on page 12*

# Christmas Then and Now

## The Way it Was in 1979

*The Sun-Journal*, November 29, 1979:

“Mrs. William S. Harvey of Kinston, Jr., Mrs. Carroll W. Hawkins of Cove City and Mrs. H. Allen Hewitt of Newport are members of the Tryon Palace Commission and for the past seven months they have been responsible for planning and orchestrating an 18<sup>th</sup> century Christmas season at Tryon Palace. . . .

The season will include music and foods of the Colonial period, but the feature will be the decoration of the interior of Tryon Palace and two other historic exhibition buildings in the complex for Christmas for the first time in nearly 200 years. . . .

“The hardest part was we had to start from the basics because it had never been done before, . . . Then, of course, we had to take measurements of stairways and other places where we want to loop garlands, count the candles in chandeliers . . . that’s where the nine-hour days came in,’ [Committee Chair Kay Hewitt said.]

The committee of volunteers, aided by two decorators, found that 600 beeswax candles would be required for example.

Interior designer H. Grady Wheeler, Jr. of Beaufort and Clifton C. West of Trenton, a graduate of the University of North Carolina who has studied 18<sup>th</sup> century decorations, assisted the committee with its planning. . . .

The work schedule for making and installing all of the decorations will be carried out under the directions of the committee, the decorators and the Palace staff by volunteers from four local garden clubs. More than 70 members of the Cherry Point Officers Wives, Neuse Forest, New Bern and Trent Woods Garden Clubs have offered to assemble the decorations, and, beginning December 3, to start placing them in the historic buildings. . . .

‘We have to make sure that the decorations were authentic as well as tasteful,’ Mrs. Hewitt pointed out. . . . ‘To us, it

was not just a few pine boughs and a ribbon and calling it 18<sup>th</sup> century. I think people expect a whole lot more than that from Tryon Palace. And they’ll get it.” . . .

‘Overall, the entire project has been a delight, . . . the response so far from the public has been overwhelming.’”

*The Sun-Journal*, December 10, 1979: “An estimated 3,100 people turned out Sunday evening for the opening of ‘An Eighteenth Century Christmas’ at Tryon Palace. Among the first-nighters were Pierre de Graffenried, United Nations official and a descendant of New Bern’s founder; U.S. Senator Robert Morgan, and Mark Goodfellow, acting regional British Consul General. A Palace official today termed the turnout ‘excellent.’”

Reprinted with permission of *The New Bern Sun Journal*.

## Getting Ready in 2009

By Rebecca Reimer, Curator of Education

& Lisa Wimpfheimer, Curator of Gardens

It is March 2009, and Lisa Wimpfheimer is already working on the “Grand Illumination” fireworks contract for this year’s candlelight tours December 12 and 19. Behind the scenes planning with Palace staff and volunteers is in progress – ordering hundreds of candles, checking and replacing screens for the cressets (fire baskets,) and carpenters saving scraps of wood to keep warm fires burning each evening.

Although the decorations won’t go up until the Festive Holiday Kick-Off Thanksgiving weekend, Christmas meetings would begin in May. Decorating plans are to be developed, orders for dried flowers and whole spices are to be placed, and volunteers will offer their pine cones, sea shells and “popcorn” from Chinese tallow trees to use in the displays.

On the Tryon Palace auditorium stage, the scene would become a historical version of *A Chorus Line*. Staff and volunteers will run through new dance moves, the strains of a fiddle just audible over the carefully-counted footsteps. Envision - the music draws to a close and the dancers face each other; the men bow while the women curtsy.

The dance steps might not be particularly difficult, but they are different from modern dances and require practice and concentration. After all, the goal is to appear fluid and graceful, and that has to be done in period dress with period customs. The men must remember to politely doff their hats to their dancing partners. The women must adapt to new personal space in their dresses and panniers (side hoops.)

Further preparing for the illusion of stepping into the eighteenth century, costuming does a great deal. Months before the candlelights, the costume shop is abuzz. There are dancers to be bedecked in ball gowns and their eighteenth-century best, and endless details to be kept in mind while deciding on who wears what. Staff and volunteers who portray



*The inaugural 18th Century Christmas – 1979*



life in the Palace require different kinds of historical clothing than do those serving in the coffee house outside where the weather truly makes a difference!. The numbers of staff and volunteers in costume increases dramatically during candle lights, meaning that every costume piece must be accounted for.

In late October, the volunteer decorators are contacted to come and assemble dried arrangements and stage materials for the fresh greenery. The four large arrangements for the Palace niches require the work of eight volunteers. More glue, foam and paint are needed to create historically appropriate floral arrangements for the Dixon and Stanly houses. (See volunteers preparing for the holidays on page 13.)

While many people are preparing to travel home for Thanksgiving, the gardens staff and volunteers will be sorting out dozens of boxwood wreaths and yards of garland. Every building on site gets a wreath, and the homes on tour are festooned with holly, pine and boxwood. The front gates of the Palace are swaged with garland, and spotlights are focused on the wreaths for all to see – a grand welcome to all for “Centuries of Celebrations” at the Palace.

Each season offers new celebrations, exhibits and programs at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. However, the Christmas season and the magical candlelight tours have become a highly anticipated tradition at the Palace ever since the first one in 1979. Families and friends from near and far make it a part of their annual holiday celebrations.

## Festive Feats

*By Sandra Pinkham*

*East Carolina University Intern*

The human appetite for bizarre, outlandish, and awe-inspiring amusement has been well documented throughout history. This fascination fueled one of the more popular entertainments of the colonial period - the itinerant performer. From the classic theatrical troupe to the cringe-worthy sword swallower, these performers brought the tradition of circuit traveling to the colonies.

On a cool December evening in 1770 Governor William Tryon hosted a “very grand and noble entertainment and ball” celebrating the completion of his magnificent new Palace. The “very great number of Gentlemen and Ladies from different parts of the country” may very well have been amused by such performers, along with a “grand and surprising exhibition of fireworks.”

Each year now the merriment is recreated during the holiday candlelight celebrations at the Palace. Returning this season are the renowned performances of Signora Bella La Bellezza dell’Equilibrio and Otto the Sword Swallower.

**Signora Bella, the Italian equilibrist**, “has stunned the masses with her feats of balance and amazed audiences with her juggling of sharp Turkish swords and flaming torches.” Signora Bella traces her roots to the Commedia Dell’Arte style, a form of improvisational theatre that began in Italy in the 15th century and lives today through this infamous Harlequin character.

The lethal art of sword swallowing originated in India before 2000 BC. The migration of the art to other lands saw it change from divine demonstration to theatrical production. It became a central part of the Japanese acrobatic theatre, Sangaku, which featured an array of performance delights - fire eating, tightrope walking, juggling and early illusion. **Otto the Sword Swallower** continues the daring tradition in his performance where he swallows “real swords right before your eyes” and “consumes fire as it were so much taffy.”

These practices of traveling performers were later condensed to become the conception of the modern circus, which gained popularity in the newly independent America during the first two decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



We invite you to join us this holiday season for the exciting recreation of these unique entertainments from our colonial past.

*Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens has been recognized as one of the Top 20 Holiday Events in the southeastern United States by the Southeast Tourism Society since 2004.*



---

*continued from page 3*

## **Making History for All People**

the state by a group of devoted, generous and fearless women convinced Governor R. Gregg Cherry to charter the Tryon Palace Commission in 1945 to rebuild and furnish the Palace. “Impossible, impractical, and undesirable” was the opinion of a National Park Service official, but the seeming obstacles faded as the Commission methodically set out to achieve the impossible. In 1959, the restored colonial capitol and its expansive gardens opened to public acclaim. Over the years more than 3 million people have visited.

For the next 50 years, the Palace leaders were inspired to continue the quest of their visionary and tireless predecessors. Additional historic properties were acquired, more gardens were developed, new programs were implemented – always with a focus on accurate historic interpretation and education. As heritage tourism and museum culture evolved, the Commission set out to achieve another improbable goal by acquiring a six-acre industrial site adjacent to the Palace. The arduous tasks of site remediation, wetlands and environmental compliance, and facility and exhibit design proceeded.

Today, on a substantial footing of 602 pilings in a location rich with history, the Center is emerging in a commanding reminder of New Bern’s earlier riverside. At the scenic confluence of the Neuse and Trent rivers, the Center will tell stories that have made North Carolina great.

The *Making History Campaign* for the Center has raised \$57.6 million with \$44.5 million in government funding and \$13 million from individuals, corporations and foundations. The \$3 million public phase will be focused on local and state wide fund-raising initiatives over the next 12 months that will provide gift and naming opportunities from a few dollars to millions.

---

*continued from page 5*

## **Linking the Past**

they all represent a material link with our past. We value the artifacts used by enslaved people just as much as we value great paintings. A cooper’s hammer is just as important as a silversmith’s mold. All artifacts speak to us, and if we are good stewards of all the artifacts in Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens’ collections, those artifacts will speak to generations of North Carolinians to come.

---

*Dean Knight received his Bachelor degree in History from UNC-W. He then spent two and a half years in the Peace Corps as a rural development agent in Africa. After returning to UNC-W he earned a Masters degree in education. He trained under Chief Curator Maureen McCassey-Donlin at the Wisconsin State Historical Society for three years prior to coming to Tryon Palace in 1990.*

---

*continued from page 7*

## **Lost and Found**

New Bern, please contact Dean Knight at 252-514-4918 or [dknight@tryonpalace.org](mailto:dknight@tryonpalace.org).

---

*Catherine W. Bishir is the author or co-author of several books and articles on North Carolina topics, including North Carolina Architecture; the three-volume series of regional guides to the architecture of the state, including A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina, which includes a chapter on New Bern; Architects and Builders in North Carolina: A History of the Practice of Building; and Southern Built: American Architecture, Regional Practice, which includes her article, “Black Builders in Antebellum North Carolina,” originally published in the North Carolina Historical Review.*

*She is currently completing research and a report on “African American Artisans in New Bern” of the 18th and 19th centuries. She is curator in architectural collections at North Carolina State University Libraries in Raleigh, where she is editor in chief of the web site for North Carolina Architects and Builders: A Biographical Dictionary, at [ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu](http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu). The web site features several New Bern architects and artisans.*

*Bishir previously served with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office and with Preservation North Carolina. She has received numerous honors and awards for her work including in 2008 a book award from the Society of Architectural Historians for Southern Built and Honorary Membership in the American Institute of Architects (Hon. AIA).*

---

*continued from page 9*

## **The Calendar - Fall 2009**

*more. There will be plenty of activity outside the Palace gates too, as our Fife & Drum Corps parades from George Street to the Palace and the Jonkonnu troop performs their lively mix of songs and dances in an African American Christmas celebration from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. At the end of each evening, a Grand Illumination of period-appropriate fireworks will take place on the Palace grounds.*

## **Thursday – Saturday, December 24 – 26**

**Seasons Greetings! Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is closed in honor of the holidays.**

## **Thursday, December 31**

### **First Night Celebration**

- “Films of New Bern’s Past”: 4:00 - 9:00 p.m. Tryon Palace Visitor Center Auditorium. Enjoy three films celebrating New Bern and Tryon Palace’s past. 1929 *New Bern Historical Pageant*, 1959 *Tour of the Palace*, and 1960 *Third Frontier*.
- Kids Crafts: 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. New Bern Riverfront Convention Center. People of the Past: 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. Downtown New Bern.
- Meet New Bern residents from the past three centuries as you stroll through the historic downtown.



## Walking the Academy Greene

Fall weather will clear the air, and beautiful Carolina blue skies will entice you to get out and about in New Bern. Come join the New Bern Academy Museum's Walking Tour and discover the beauty of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century homes around the four blocks of the New Bern Academy Museum originally known as "The Academy Greene." Today, private homes along Metcalf, Johnson, Hancock and New Streets include many styles, i.e., Georgian, Federal, Italianate, Gothic and Greek revival, and Victorian. Stroll with a guide and see the incredible craftsmanship of these homes and learn about the architects and owners whose legacies make New Bern a historical treasure.

Walking Tours are scheduled the first and third Saturdays: January – May and September – November.



## Christmas Walking Tours

The 2009 holiday season will include Walking Tours prior to the candlelight events.

On Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, tours will leave at 1:30 p.m. from the New Bern Academy Museum located at the corner of New and Hancock Streets. Call to make your reservations for a special Christmas tour and visualize how New Bern homes may have looked during a past yuletide season! Tickets: Adult - \$2.00 and Student - \$1.00. There is no charge for Council of Friends members with a membership card or visitors with a current Governors Pass (ticket). For reservations, call 252-524-4951.



## Volunteer Want Ads

- Scrapbook Coordinator to organize articles and photographs of Volunteer Activities from 2001 to 2009
- School Monitors ensure the safety of school groups visiting Tryon Palace during the year. This requires volunteers to be outside when the weather is cold and rainy! It is also important that volunteers enjoy working with school age children. Contact: Volunteer Coordinator -252-514-4951 or fcampbell@tryonpalace.org
- Academy Volunteers to staff New Bern Academy Museum, Monday-Saturday, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. Training provided by experienced guides. Additional volunteers are needed at the Academy to welcome and control the flow of guests during Ghost Walk 2009, October 23 and 24. Contact: Rebecca Reimer – 252-514-4925 or rreimer@tryonpalace.org



## Our New Friends

The Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens Council of Friends welcomes the following members who have joined between May 11, 2009 and August 24, 2009.

### CHAMPION

Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Rice, Raleigh

### PATRON

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Cece, Raleigh

### SUSTAINER

Mrs. Juliette F. Newcomb, Raleigh

Mr. Loren M. Rogers and

Mrs. Val Martin, Arlington, VA

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel J. Sugg, Raleigh

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Williams,  
Raleigh

### SPONSOR

Mr. and Mrs. Zack H. Bacon, Jr.,  
Raleigh

Mrs. Elizabeth A. Bell, Raleigh

Mr. and Mrs. Wade H. Hargrove,  
Raleigh

Mr. and Mrs. Laurence B. Maddison,  
Raleigh

Mrs. Helen H. White, Raleigh

### FAMILY/GRANDPARENT

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Andrews, Raleigh

Mr. Andrew D'Angelo, New Bern

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hobbs, Smithfield

Mr. and Mrs. Francis. P. King, Jr.,  
Raleigh

Dr. Zack Kitchen and

Ms. Sims M. Wayt, New Bern

Dr. and Mrs. Hervy B. Kornegay, Sr.,  
Calypso

Mr. and Mrs. Glen D. Lang, Raleigh

Ms. Nora C. Morton, Goldsboro

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Palmer, Pikeville

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Peatross,  
Raleigh

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Phillips, Raleigh

Mrs. Edwina H. Shaw, Raleigh

### SUPPORTER

Mr. and Mrs. R. Paxton Badham, Jr.,  
Raleigh

Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Burrows,  
Raleigh

Mr. and Mrs. Harry S. Cotton,  
New Bern

Mr. and Mrs. John Edward Davenport,  
Raleigh

Mr. Donald K. Davis and  
Mrs. Peggy L. Wilkes, Raleigh

Mrs. Nell A. Finch, Raleigh

Mr. Donald L. Harley, Raleigh

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil W. Harrison,  
Raleigh

Mr. and Mrs. Seab Howard, Raleigh

Mr. and Mrs. Nathan L. James,  
New Bern

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Johnson,  
Cincinnati, OH

Mr. Robert Milner and  
Mrs. Joanne Friedman, New Bern

Mr. and Mrs. V. Thomas Morton,  
New Bern

Mr. and Mrs. Erin Paxson, New Bern

Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Popka,  
New Bern

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred L. Purrington,  
Raleigh

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Simpson,  
New Bern

Mr. Spencer E. Zimmerman,  
New Bern

### ASSOCIATE

Ms. Rachel P. Anderson, New Bern

Mrs. June Ipock Bassett, Cove City

Mrs. Susan Boyer, Greenville

Mrs. Sara K. Brower, Raleigh

Dr. Jerry C. Cashion, Raleigh

Mrs. Virginia M. Jernigan, Raleigh

Mrs. James Hill, Raleigh

Mrs. Harlan Keibel, New Bern

Mrs. Kimberly A. Lane, New Bern

Ms. Tricia Parish, Raleigh

Mrs. Judy Pierce, New Bern

### STUDENT

Miss McKenzie L. Hobbs, Smithfield

Mr. Joshua Keesecker, New Bern

Miss Linda D. Salter, New Bern

## Friends Movie Series

To help celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the restoration of the Palace, the Council of Friends' monthly movie series has been featuring some of the top movies from 1959. Please join us as we come to the end of this anniversary year of looking back on what was popular when the Palace opened.

### *Tuesday, October 6: Devil's Disciples*

This film version of George Bernard Shaw's satirical take on the American Revolution boasts a cutting performance by Laurence Olivier. Shaw's tale depicts his version of how the British lost the American colonies. Because of a stupid mistake at the War Office, someone forgot to tell Lord North to join up with General Johnny Burgoyne (Laurence Olivier) and smash the rebels. Burt Lancaster is on hand as the Rev. Anthony Anderson, a peace-loving parson who ends up becoming a belligerent firebrand of a rebel. Also in tow is Kirk Douglas as Dirk Dungeon, who, in typical Shawvian irony, starts out as an unrepentant, cowardly scamp and ends up as the personification of Christian virtues.

### *Tuesday, November 3: Ben Hur (Part One) Tuesday, December 1: Ben Hur (Part Two)*

We've saved the best for last! As we come to the end of our year long series of 1959 movies, we close with the epic Ben Hur, winner of 11 Academy Awards. As this movie is almost four hours long, we will be showing it in two parts – part one on November 3 and part two on December 1. The film recounts the tale of Jewish prince Judah Ben-Hur (Charlton Heston), who lives in Judea with his family during the time that Jesus was becoming known for his "radical" teachings. Ben-Hur's childhood friend Messala (Stephen Boyd) is now an ambitious Roman tribune. When Ben-Hur refuses to help Messala round up local dissidents on behalf of the emperor, Messala pounces on the first opportunity to exact revenge on his onetime friend. Tried on a trumped-up

charge of attempting to kill the provincial governor, Ben-Hur is condemned to the Roman galleys, while his mother and sister are imprisoned. During a sea battle, Ben-Hur saves the life of Commander Quintus Arrius (Jack Hawkins), who, in gratitude, adopts Ben-Hur as his son and gives him full control over his stable of racing horses. Ben-Hur never gives up trying to find his family or exact revenge on Messala. The highlight of the film is its now-legendary chariot race. Ben-Hur's Oscar haul included Best Picture, Best Director for the legendary William Wyler, Best Actor for Heston, and Best Supporting Actor for Welsh actor Hugh Griffith as an Arab sheik.

**ANNUAL CAMPAIGN**

As the Council of Friends begins the 2009 Annual Campaign this fall, we are once again reaching out to our community of "Friends" with three separate appeals.

• **The Annual Fund**

Our current Council of Friends members already recognize the importance of supporting North Carolina's premiere historic site. To have an even greater impact, we offer you an opportunity to increase your giving before the year end with a gift to the Annual Fund.

• **The Membership Drive**

We miss our lapsed members and your support and want to welcome you back to our active family.

To make new friends, we plan to emphasize the value of Friends membership to those who have not yet experienced it.

• **Holiday Sponsorships**

An invitation is extended to the business community to support our holiday activities and to enjoy its sponsorship benefits.

In 2008, the Council of Friends



*Volunteers staff the Heritage Plant Sale.*

raised \$111,625 for support at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens from memberships, Annual Fund gifts and sponsorships. Thank you to all who contributed!

If you are requested to participate in any of our three appeals this year, we hope you will do so. Please know that your gift will be greatly appreciated, and we will look forward to seeing you at the many special events that are offered to our members and sponsors.

**MEMBERS – ONLY EVENTS**

The Tryon Palace Council of Friends announces the following special events for members only:

• **Fall Preview Plant Sale:** This "members only" special preview sale of Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens annual Garden Lovers' Weekend Heritage Plant Sale takes place Thursday, October 8, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. on the lawn behind the Daves House (Museum Shop). Council of Friends members have the unique opportunity to shop early for the best selection of plants before the sale opens to the public on the following day. Remember, in our area,

**"Fall is for Planting!"**

• **Holiday Party:** On Wednesday, December 9, the Council of Friends holiday party will be held in the Grand Pavilion on the Daves House lawn – this year with lots of heat!!! Come celebrate with good food and good Friends.

• As a Council of Friends member, you are entitled to admission to the candlelight tours at no additional charge. This year we are encouraging members to make reservations in advance. Tickets may be reserved beginning October 1. Reservations made by phone (252-514-4935) may be picked up at the Visitor Center on the day of the candlelight beginning at 9:00 a.m. Also beginning October 1, you may get your ticket in person at the Visitor Center. Please have your membership card to show the ticket seller.

**BE A FRIEND**

You, too, can enjoy the benefits and satisfaction of supporting North Carolina's colonial capitol and its surrounding history. For Council of Friends membership information, contact Karen O'Connell, 252-514-4933 or koconnell@tryonpalace.org

**May We Have Your E-mail Address?**

In an effort to manage resources more economically, we are increasingly using e-mail as a means to communicate with the Tryon Palace family. If you haven't received an e-mail from us, or if you're unsure that we have your address, please help by sending your e-mail address to koconnell@tryonpalace.org. Thank you.

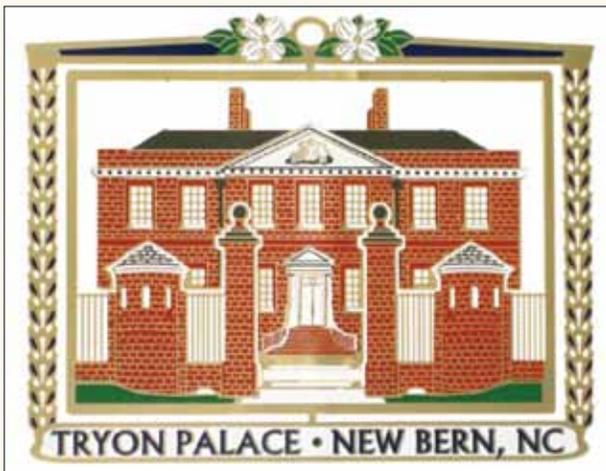
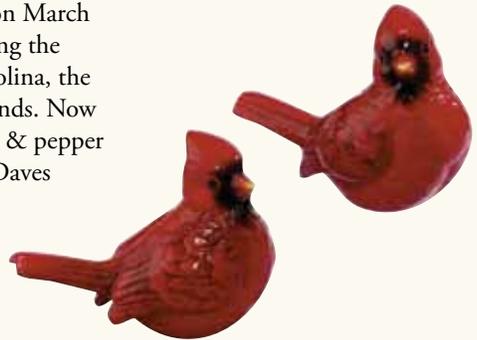
NEW IN



THE SHOPS

## *Treasured Gifts for under \$10.00*

The Cardinal was selected by popular choice as the North Carolina State Bird on March 4, 1943. Sometimes called the Winter Redbird because it is most noticeable during the winter when it is the only “redbird” present. A year-round resident of North Carolina, the Cardinal is one of the most common birds in the gardens, meadows, and woodlands. Now captured in elegant porcelain, The Museum Shop offers our unique 3 ¼ inch salt & pepper set also for only \$9.99. Members discount apply. We are located in the Historic Daves House and open Monday-Saturday 9:30-5:30 and Sunday 1:00-5:30.



The Museum Shop of Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens offers for your holiday gift giving a unique way to share early English architecture and American history. Our custom three dimensional ornaments from Jackson Pacific's National Treasures series is in full color on 24K gold flashed brass, beautifully gift boxed and includes a brief history of the Palace. This exclusive stocking stuffer collectable is available for \$9.99.

**We've moved! You can now find the Museum Shop in the historic Daves House, to the right of the Palace gates on the corner of Pollock and Eden Streets.**