



Museums Celebrates Civil War's 150th Anniversary with Costume Program



Program Director Kimberly Costa models one of Suellen Tatrai's period reproduction gowns. Original garments will be on display for November's program.

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the Readington Museums proudly presents the program *Clothing of the Civil War*, with costume expert Suellen Tatrai. on Sunday, November 4, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead. Visitors will have the chance to see manne-

quins fully dressed in **original 19th century clothing and accessories.** During the program Ms. Tatrai will explain what was needed to dress one's self during the age of the hoop petticoat. With multiple layers of gar-

ments needed to create the overall look of the period, getting dressed in the mid 19th century was not for the faint of heart.

Ms. Tatrai has exhibited and lectured throughout the country including: the Readington Museums, John Sebastian Goundie House, Landis Valley, Jacob-

sburg Historical Society, Mercer Museum, Burnside Plantation, Historic Bethlehem, Pottsgrove Manner, Washington's Crossing, and the Victorian Society of America. She also assisted FIT (Fashion Institute of Technology) in mounting and dismantling their exhibit *Ancient Régime*, an exhibit in conjunction with the precious Kyoto Costume Institute. In addition, she owns and operates the Sign of the Golden Scissors, where she creates period correct fashions from many different time periods.

The program will run continually between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. Groups of six or more are asked to call for a reservation. For more information please call 908-236-2327.

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Photo of the BSF (above) by Douglas Vergara	

Did You Know:

- The Bouman-Stickney Farmstead was originally built in 1741 and had 150 acres?
- That the Farmstead stayed in the Bouman family until 1851 before being sold to John Chamberlin?
- That Cornelius Bouman (the younger) had eight children, all of whom survived into adulthood?

Cooking Class Registration Now OPEN

Registration for our 2nd Open Hearth Cooking Class is now open. The class is limited to eight participants and advance registration is required. You must be over 18 to attend. The class will be held at the Bouman-Stickney Farmstead on Saturday, September 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Donation is \$40.00 per person.

Participants will be paired up, given copies of *receipts*, called recipes today, and then will prepare a variety of 18th century

Dutch foods using the Farmstead's original Open Hearth. The class will cover basic fire and food safety, choosing firewood, how to interpret and read an 18th century recipe. Once all the food is prepared, all participants will have the chance to sit down and taste the fruits of their labors.

To register for the class email or call Program Director Kimberly Costa at 908-236-2327 or email readingtonmuseums@gmail.com.



You could be preparing foods such as this at our next Open Hearth Cooking Class!



Items such as this 1840's clock were accessioned using Past Perfect.

In 2011 the Readington Museums purchased Past Perfect software to help standardize the Museums' collections, and bring it in line with accessioning systems used by most museums throughout the world. The Museums had been using SNAP, but the database system was woefully out of date, so the decision was made to purchase new software to help facilitate the

New Accessioning Software Eases Big Job

transition. Since Past Perfect is the biggest, and most popular, of all museum database/archival/accessioning software, it was the natural choice.

Since much of the Museums' collections were already cataloged and accessioned, the original SNAP database was converted into a transferable data set which allowed the original data to be transferred into Past Perfect. Once the conversion was complete, each artifact had to be found and checked against the database. Work began at the BSF, where the house was divided into zones. Every object in a zone was checked against the database, and then any corrections or updates made to the data set. Missing accession

numbers were written on each item. Artifacts missing from the database had to be accessioned, given a unique identification number, based on standard protocols, and then marked with the new numbers. Additionally, all items had to be photographed and measured.

The standardization of the database and accessioning systems will allow the Museums to better understand what is held in its collections. This will allow staff members to see where gaps are in the collections, which will in turn give a better understanding of what is needed when planning purchases or future exhibits. Work will continue throughout 2012 and 13.

Monday Mornings at the Museum to Return Next Summer

The Staff is happy to report that our newest summer program, Monday Mornings at the Museums, was a big success. The program was held on four consecutive Monday mornings beginning on July 9th. Over 60 children attended the program,

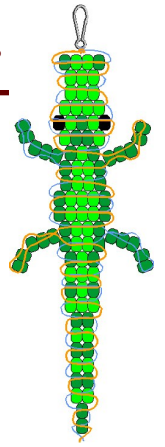


Our youngest crafter paints a clay pot before decoration and planting onions on day one of Monday Morning at the Museums.

often returning the following week with friends and neighbors in tow. Each week the children had a chance to create a project that had an 18th century history or environmental connection. On week one the children paint-

ed clay pots and planted onions. Since the BSF was originally a 150 acre farm, the children planted something that would be very typically found in an 18th century kitchen garden. They also went home with a period recipe for onion pie which they can make once their plants are fully grown. Bride or Bug Boxes were painted and decorated to commemorate the small stenciled folk-art boxes given to women during the 18th and 19th centuries. Week three brought Native American Coil baskets. These baskets are still made today in areas where dense pine trees are found, as the traditional base material are bundled pine needles. To celebrate our nature trails on the last week the children made critter key chains and learned how to do bead work. Most popular was the alligator, though we can assure visitors there are no alligators in the pond at the BSF. The children also made hand-dipped candles every week.

Learning about early lighting methods and dipping candles is part of the Museums' 5th grade program which occur each May. It was a natural step to teach our visiting children, many



Our most popular Critter Keychain.

of whom had never dipped candles before, about traditional lighting.

Staff for the program included Program Director Kimberly Costa, Museum Assistant Margaret Smith and summer intern Brittany Gajewski. The staff received many positive comments and thanks, for holding the program and making it affordable for families. The program is set to return next summer with new crafts and a possible extension into August. Details will be published in the newsletter, online and in the local newspapers.



To help celebrate the Yuletide season the Readington Museums is looking for volunteers to help with their English County Dance program, to be held as part of

Dancers Needed For Christmas Program

Christmas with Jane Austen, on Sunday, December 2, 2012 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers over 16 years old will be taught three or four simple country dances, which will then be performed several times throughout the open house. Practices will be held during the month of No-

vember on either Wednesday or Thursday evenings. These dances are easy to learn, no experience necessary! Costumes may be provided. If you are interested please contact Program Director Kimberly Costa at 908-236-2327 or readingtonmuseums@gmail.com.

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Calendar 2012-13

The Bouman-Stickney Farmstead is located at 114 Dreahook Road, in the Stanton section of the Township. \$5.00 suggested donations for all lectures and programs.

Saturday, September 8

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Open Hearth Cooking Class
Registration REQUIRED. See Page 2 for details.

Sunday, September 9

1:00-4:00 p.m.
18th and 19th century room stenciling. Noted New Jersey artist Deborah Mores will be on hand

to teach 19th century techniques for room and floor stenciling. Donations accepted.

Sunday, October 7

1:00-4:00 p.m.
Open House at Cold Brook School. Come spend the afternoon in 1826 writing with a quill, doing your 'recitation' and more. Donations accepted.

Saturday, October 13

7:00-9:30 p.m.
Barn Dance with caller Betsy Gotta. Family friendly and no experience necessary. \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 per child. Groups of 6 or more call for reservations.

Sunday, November 4

1:00-4:00 p.m.
Clothing of the Civil War
With Suellen Tatrai. See Page 1 for more details.

Sunday, December 2

1:00-4:00 p.m.
Christmas with Jane Austen
Watch a 19th century holiday meal being cooked using the hearth, make a portrait silhouette then try your hand at some 19th century dancing. Donations accepted.

Sunday, February 3, 2013

1:00-4:00 p.m.
See 18th Century Chocolate made from beginning to end.