

the Old House herald



Macculloch Hall
Historical Museum and Gardens
Established 1950 by W. Parsons Todd

Spring/Summer 2019

New Thomas Nast Gallery Features Uncle Sam

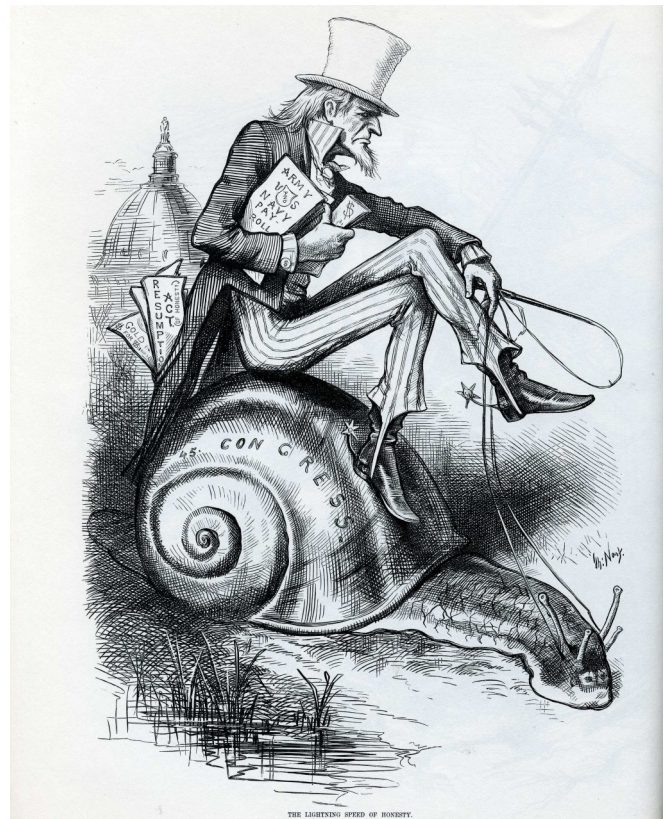
Ryan Hyman, F.M. Kirby Curator of Collections

Macculloch Hall Historical Museum is pleased to announce the opening of a new gallery dedicated to the work of Thomas Nast (1840-1902). The Thomas Nast Gallery, officially opened on February 3, 2019, is located on the first floor in the center hall of the museum. This new exhibition space allows MHHM to explore works from our most popular collection through thematic, rotating exhibitions, on display year round. Nast's paintings *Sorrowful John and Joyful Jonathan* (1888) and *Hurrah Boys We Are One Hundred Years Old* (1897) are on permanent display. In June, the famed Testimonial Canteen gifted to Nast by the United States Army and Navy, designed by E.J. Soligny for Tiffany & Co. will go on permanent display.

Illustrating an Icon: Thomas Nast's Uncle Sam, the inaugural exhibition now on view, explores the artist's development of the image of Uncle Sam. Nast popularized the image of Uncle Sam creating the icon we all know: a tall, gaunt Lincolnesque figure with a wispy beard, top hat, striped trousers and boots. *The Lightning Speed of Honesty* (pictured to the right), one of Nast's most famous images, depicts Uncle Sam riding a snail. Nast was a vocal advocate for the United States Armed Forces and continually fought for their funding. To emphasize just how difficult timely funding could be, in *The Lightning Speed of Honesty*, Nast illustrated Uncle Sam astride the snail of Congress, Army and Navy payroll in hand. The grim figure of Uncle Sam makes clear his irritation with economic-minded legislators for being too slow to provide much-needed military funding. This image appeared in the *Harper's Weekly* issue published on November 24, 1877.

Nast, popularly known as the father of the American political cartoon, illustrated the Civil War for a Northern audience; created powerful, critical illustrations credited with helping to take down New York political boss William "Boss" Tweed (1823-1878); and is best known for popularizing the iconic images of the Democratic Donkey, Republican Elephant, Columbia, and Santa Claus.

Illustrating an Icon: Thomas Nast's Uncle Sam will be on view through mid-July 2019. *Columbia: Thomas Nast Illustrates the Moral Conscience of the United States* will open on August 4, 2019.



Thomas Nast, *The Lightning Speed of Honesty*, 1877.

A Note from the Executive Director

Patricia C. Pongracz, Ph.D.

MHHM had one of its busiest years in 2018. In addition to engaging more than 6,200 people on and off site, we hosted a very successful Historic District House Tour in October and welcomed almost 1,000 people in December to see our beautifully decorated house (thank you, Garden Club of Morristown!) and Thomas Nast's images of Santa Claus. All of this was made possible by the generous support of our trustees, members, donors, volunteers, and friends. Thank you.

So what's new for 2019? A dedicated Thomas Nast Gallery on our first floor—our front page news—for starters. This center hall gallery will permit F. M. Kirby Curator of Collections Ryan Hyman to explore, in a series of focused exhibitions, MHHM's collection of more than 5,000 objects related to New Jersey artist and Macculloch Hall neighbor, Thomas Nast. In addition, as Ryan noted on page one, several important, unique works of art will be on permanent display.

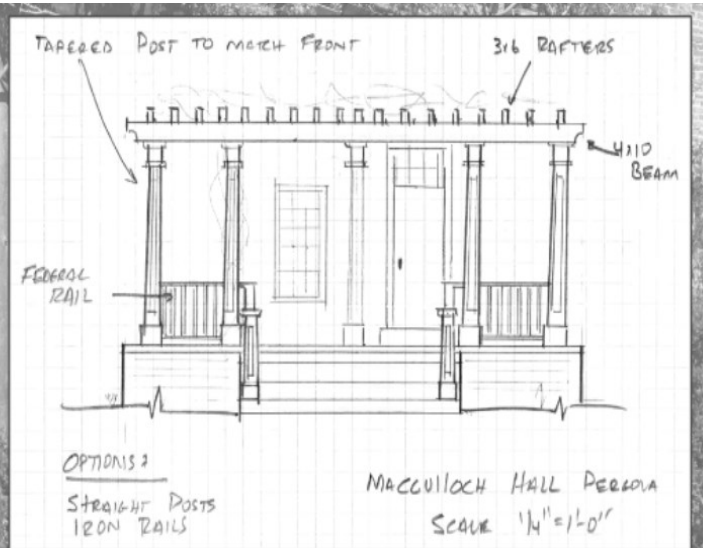
We are also excited to announce the rehabilitation of the back porch pergola supporting MHHM's historic wisteria slated for this spring. As you may know our wisteria is, in fact, historic. It was given to Mr. and Mrs. Macculloch by Commodore Matthew Perry and a cultivar of this tree has graced the back of the house since the late 1850s.

The historically sympathetic pergola, inspired by a

photograph of the back porch dating to 1940, was designed and will be installed by Bob Kiefer of Kiefer Decks (please see the image below). This critical structural improvement has been made possible, in part, by a generous bequest from the Estate of Emma Joy Dana, a grant from the W. Parsons Todd Foundation, and support from MHHM's members, Annual Fund donors, and trustees. We are very grateful.

The pergola creates MHHM's welcoming back porch, a space for respite, quiet conversation, pickle making, story time and very exciting learning. Curator of Education and Community Engagement Cynthia Winslow regularly incorporates programming for *Dig it! Plant it! Eat it!* in the dappled light of the wisteria canopy. Now in its fourth year and again funded, in part, by a generous grant from The Astle-Alpaugh Family Foundation, *Dig it! Plant it! Eat it!* is set to welcome more than 500 children and their caregivers, free of charge, this summer. Please see page four for details about this enriching program.

In April, the Garden Club of Morristown (GCM) will prepare the roses for their early summer bloom. On May 11, we will celebrate National Public Gardens Day, rain or shine. From 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. guests of all ages are welcome free of charge to learn about *Insects on the Move*, a program presented by Insectropolis; walk through our gardens so expertly tended to since 1950 by GCM members; and sit beneath our lovingly renovated pergola. I hope you will join us.



You're invited!



National Public Gardens Day

Saturday, May 11, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

FREE

Enjoy MMMH's historic garden buzzing with activities and a visit from Insectropolis, NJ's Bugseum. Learn about different arthropods in *Insects on the Move*, create art, make a fairy house for our garden and explore the grounds.

Spring/Summer Programming

Sunday, April 28, 2:00 pm: Curator's Tour

Join guest curator Alfred Giraldi for a guided tour of *Anchors Aweigh: Macculloch Hall and U.S. Naval History*. FREE with museum admission and for members.

Thursday, June 27, 7:00 pm: Louis C. Tiffany's Designs for American Synagogues

Executive Director Patricia Pongracz will be speaking at the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey's Annual Meeting at Alex Aidekman Jewish Community Campus, 901 Route 10, Whippany, NJ. Open to all.

Exhibitions

Illustrating an Icon: Thomas Nast's Uncle Sam—February-mid-July 2019

Anchors Aweigh: Macculloch Hall and U.S. Naval History with children's exhibit *Don't Give Up the Ship!*
—March 3-mid-August 2019

Columbia: Thomas Nast Illustrates the Moral Conscience of the United States—August 4-November 2019

Children's Programming

Growing in the Garden

1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month

1:15-2:00 pm or 3:45-4:30 pm

This hands-on art program for 3 to 5 year olds and their caregivers includes a story, a visit to the gardens and an art project. *Rain or shine.* Members \$8 per child/adult pair, \$12 non-members.

Scout Programs

Boy Scouts: Architecture Past and Present

Saturday, April 13, 9:30-11:30 am

Tuesday, April 23, 4:30-6:30 pm

\$10/scout, \$5/adult

Wolf Scouts: Treasures Assembled

Tuesday, May 28, 4:30-6:30 pm

\$10/scout, \$5/adult

Tiger Scouts: Ready, Set, Float Your Boat

Tuesday, April 30 & May 14, 4:30-5:30 pm

\$7/scout, \$5/adult

Brownies: Pen, Ink, and Paintings

Monday, April 29, 4:30-6:30 pm

\$10/scout, \$5/adult

Daisies: Making Memories

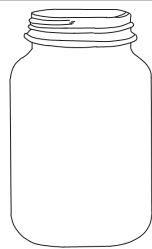
Monday, May 6 & Thursday, May 9, 4:30-5:30

pm

\$7/scout, \$5/adult

Mason Jars Needed!

MHHM needs new 64 oz. wide mouth Mason jars with lids. Please drop off your donations at The Old House.



Homeschool

Voyages, Victories and Veterans

Tuesday March 26, April 23 & May 28

1:00-3:00 pm

Travel the high seas with two of George Macculloch's grandsons, Henry Miller (1836-1904) and Jacob W. Miller (1847-1918), both graduates of the United States Naval Academy. Explore their eyewitness accounts to historic naval events:

3/26: Capturing the Slave Ship *Erie*

4/23: Union Victory at Port Royal

5/28: Ulysses S. Grant's Grand Tour of Europe.

Attend one or all three. For ages 7-11 years old. \$10 per student, per session.

Family Summer Saturdays

Dig it! Plant it! Eat it!

July 13, 20, and 27

August 3, 10, and 17

10:00-11:30 am

Through hands-on gardening, guided interactive learning experiences, tours of the Museum's eighteenth-century kitchen and an art making experience with a New Jersey artist, children:

Explore the garden ♦ Learn how Macculloch Hall grew, prepared, and stored fruits and vegetables ♦

Witness pollinating insects and birds in action ♦

Create art

FREE but pre-registration required.

Lunch with the Librarian

Wednesdays in July and August at 12:00 pm, in partnership with the Morristown & Morris Township Library

Wharton Canal Day

Saturday, August 24, 10:00-5:00

Hugh Force Canal Park, Wharton, NJ

Pre-registration is requested for all programs. Programs meet Rain or Shine

For more information about our School, Scout and Homeschool programs visit maccullochhall.org/learn or contact Curator of Education and Community Engagement Cynthia Winslow: cwinslow@maccullochhall.org or (973) 538-

2404, ext. 16

George Macculloch's Agricultural Legacy Continues

Cynthia Winslow, Curator of Education and Community Engagement



Thanks to the generous support of The Astle-Alpaugh Family Foundation, *Dig it! Plant it! Eat it!* ran for an exciting eight weeks in summer 2018 at Macculloch Hall! 480 children, young adults and caregivers visited the gardens. In addition to helping to harvest over 83 pounds of fresh produce, which was donated to the Community Soup Kitchen, participants learned how plants are used to make and dye clothing, and created fabric banners with New Jersey artist and teacher, Lisa Madson. We look forward to welcoming participants for 2019's *Dig it! Plant it! Eat it!* in July.



Ahoy, Matey!

Alfred Giraldi, Archivist

Anchors Aweigh: Macculloch Hall and U.S. Naval History is currently on exhibit in the Schoolroom Gallery. This exhibition tells the story of how the Navy has played a significant role in Macculloch family history through paintings, photographs, books, letters, and objects such as medals, epaulets, and an officer's bicorn hat.

Two of George and Louisa Macculloch's grandchildren were graduates of the Naval Academy at Annapolis. Henry William Miller served on the USS *Mohican* at the battle of Port Royal and participated in the blockade of Charleston, S.C. during the Civil War. Henry's younger brother, Jacob William Miller, was sent to Nicaragua to explore a possible canal route and later served on the USS *Vandalia* where he escorted President Grant and his wife on their tour of the Mediterranean.

W. Parsons Todd, MHHM's founder, added many naval related items to the collection. This interest may have been sparked by the memory of his uncle, Henry Davis Todd, who graduated from the Naval Academy at Annapolis with Henry William Miller and served with him on the USS *Minnesota* during its cruise to China.

The role of Thomas Nast in supporting naval reform can be seen in several of his political cartoons created to give American soldiers and sailors fair pay. The United States Army and Navy recognized Nast as a supporter of the military in 1879 by presenting him with a large silver Tiffany testimonial canteen (pictured to the right) and soon to be on permanent display in the new Thomas Nast Gallery.

Also featured in the exhibition are a collection of navigation aids used on sailing ships including a chronometer, sextant, and spyglass. Before radar and satellites, reading the stars was the method used to determine a ship's position.

Don't Give Up the Ship, for our youngest visitors, features a model of a nineteenth-century Two-Masted Racing Schooner, a Lego activity and a "child friendly" pirate ship. Through various hands-on interactive activities, children will learn about sailing and the family's naval adventures.

These exhibitions will run through mid-August 2019.



Army and Navy Testimonial Canteen, E.J. Soligny, Tiffany and Company, Sterling Silver, 1879.

Join or renew today!

Preservation of Macculloch Hall Historical Museum's historic building and grounds; exhibitions; and adult and children's programs are made possible, in part, by the generous support of our members.

In 2018 MHHM engaged 6,290 visitors of all ages through field trips, garden workshops, concerts, special tours, and visits to the Old House. Visitors from all over New Jersey and from as far away as Columbia, the United Kingdom, and Nepal found Macculloch Hall an enchanting place to experience where history happened.

For more information about membership please contact Executive Director Patricia Pongracz at (973) 538-2404, ext. 11 or ppongacz@maccullochhall.org.

A \$100 Loyalist Membership has the added benefit of enrollment in the North American Reciprocal Museum Association (NARM). Members at the Loyalist level enjoy free entry to more than 1,000 museums nationwide including: Montclair Art Museum, Princeton University Art Museum, Hudson River Museum, The Frick Collection, Woodmere Art Museum, and The Mark Twain House and Museum among other esteemed institutions.

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Emily Harper, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Fall 2018 Intern

Sua Mendez, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ

Spring 2019 Intern

Adiana Perez, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ

MHHM is grateful for the time and talent shared by our dedicated volunteers and interns.

For information about MHHM's volunteer and internship programs, please visit www.maccullochhall.org or contact Executive Director Patricia Pongracz at (973) 538-2404, ext. 11 or ppongacz@maccullochhall.org.

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*Lists updated as of March 13, 2019

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45 Macculloch Avenue
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& THURSDAY, 1:00-4:00 pm

Gardens: Daily 9:00 am-5:00 pm. **FREE.**
Office: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

MHHM welcomes group tours of 5 people or
more 6 days a week, scheduled by appointment.

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Ryan Hyman, F.M. Kirby Curator of Collections
Cynthia Winslow, Curator of Education and
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Carly Cheponis, Social Media/Office Assistant

MHHM receives operating support from the W. Parsons Todd Foundation, the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the New Jersey Department of State and the F.M. Kirby Foundation and project support from The Astle-Alpaugh Family Foundation; the Morristown Medical Center Atlantic Health System; and the Garden Club of Morristown.