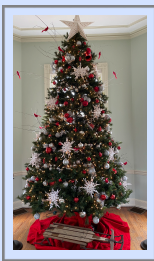
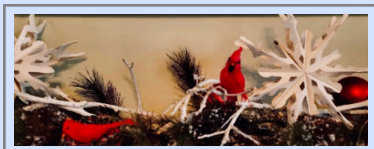
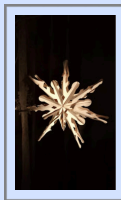


LAUREL HILL MANSION NEWS

LHM Holiday Tours



This December, 2021, Laurel Hill Mansion resumed the tradition of Holiday Tours. With Ormiston, Woodford, and Strawberry Mansions, Laurel Hill opened its doors to the public, adorned in holiday splendor. Ben Franklin himself greeted visitors as they weaved their way through a Winter Wonderland of lighted trees, snow flakes & bright red cardinals.



CHEERS TO THE NEW YEAR!

AS 2022 BEGINS, WE CAN LOOK BACK ON 2021 WITH PRIDE AS WE HANDLED THE CHALLENGES OF THE PANDEMIC. THROUGH THE CREATIVITY AND HARD WORK OF OUR MEMBERS, WE WERE ABLE TO HAVE A VIRTUAL TEA, A CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT ON THE GROUNDS OF LAUREL HILL, AND HOST HOLIDAY TOURS. I THANK ALL THE VOLUNTEERS THAT HELPED MAKE THESE EVENTS POSSIBLE DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO 2022, WE WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD PLANNING FOR EVENTS WHILE MONITORING AND ADJUSTING AS NECESSARY. WE WILL THINK "OUTSIDE OF THE BOX" TO KEEP LHM VIABLE IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. IN JANUARY, I WILL BE GATHERING THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF OUR BOARD TO DISCUSS OUR FUTURE AND IN MARCH WILL MEET WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. I KNOW THAT AS THE NEW YEAR PROGRESSES, THE WOMEN FOR GREATER PHILADELPHIA WILL MOVE FORWARD WITH NEW GOALS AND MORE DETERMINATION THAN EVER TO CONTINUE THE RICH HISTORY OF LHM IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.

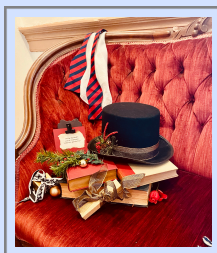
BARBARA FRANKL, PRESIDENT, WFGP/LAUREL HILL MANSION

LHM Tours (con't)

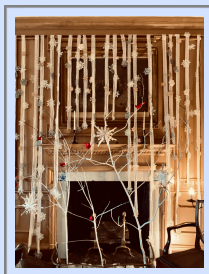
The kitchen was transformed into a cozy holiday gift shop.



A room was dedicated to LHM resident & Victorian chess master Philip Randolph.



A cascade of snowflakes covered the fireplace in the original living room.



Thank you to those who made the LHM holiday tours a success: decorators, hostesses, tour guides, gift shop contributors, our visitors and Fairmount Park.

House News:

We are pleased to announce that Guardian XRX Air Purifiers have been purchased and installed to protect volunteers and visitors at historic Laurel Hill Mansion.

UPCOMING WFGP EVENTS:

1. WFGP Executive Committee Meeting:

Via Zoom, Saturday, January 22, 2022, 11 am

2. WFGP Board Meeting: March 2022, date TBA

3. Women's History Event: March 2022, WFGP participates in Women's History Month every March by hosting an educational program. This year our program (virtual or in person) will be determined by current public health & safety protocols.

The national theme for Women's History Month in 2022 explores the role of women of all cultures in providing both healing and hope throughout history.

Time to pay WFGP annual dues, only \$30 per year

<https://www.womenforgreaterphiladelphia.org/pages/membership.html>

Benefits of being a WFGP Member include: fellowship, camaraderie, free admission to LHM, discount on LHM facility rental, obtaining a tax deductible contribution, knowledge you are helping to preserve Laurel Hill Mansion and Colonial Philadelphia History.

SHOWCASING ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN FOR GREATER PHILADELPHIA

by MonaLisa Fiorentini

The history of Women for Greater Philadelphia (WFGP) is one of remarkable accomplishments. Begun nearly 50 years ago in 1973 as Women for the Bicentennial, this non-profit service organization is the steward of the beautiful and historic Laurel Hill Mansion (circa 1767) of Fairmount Park. Among its membership are individuals of varied backgrounds and a multitude of achievements.



Alma Jacobs, Florence Jaggard, Elsie Hack, Bette Young, Alice Nugent of WFGP circa 1985

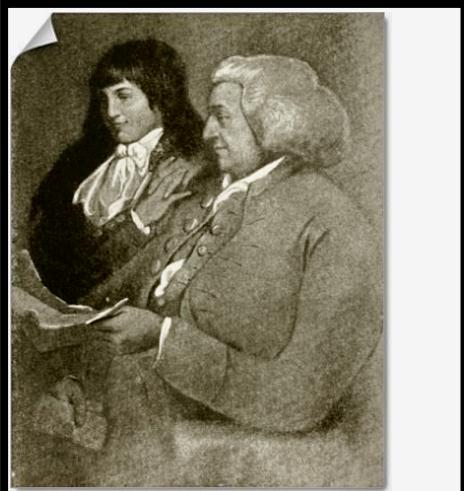
It is in the effort to make such a rich history available to Mansion visitors, that the WFGP History Committee has been tasked with integrating this information into easily viewable presentations to be located within the room currently used as an office. Secondly, is the desire to provide centralized location for WFGP information thereby ensuring its ready access to staff and volunteers.

Thus far, the plan is to reformat the existing office into an area that will concurrently showcase WFGP's achievements and serve the office functions needed by staff and volunteers. To date, three major areas for action have been identified: 1) modification of the physical layout of the room to discreetly accommodate office needs while providing the required space for visitors' viewing of materials, 2) provision of storage for the organization's documents and 3), identification of the types of media best suited to showcase WFGP's many achievements for visitor viewing. Some of the formats discussed include enlarged photographs, timelines, and social media.

A secondary task of the History Committee is to transform the current Retiring Room into a replica of the office of the late Samuel Shoemaker (1725-1800) second husband of Rebecca Rawle. (Please see article below). Anita McKelvey recently curated a collection of LHM items that belonged to or were connected to Samuel. Found items include: a pocket atlas dated 1787, eyeglasses, picture of Sam Shoemaker and son Edward, picture of Samuel and first wife Caroline, shadow box containing ephemera, London made trunk to the period, and Samuel's 1754 telescope.

The History Committee currently consists of Christine Smith, Anita McKelvey, MonaLisa Fiorentini, Smokie Kittner and Nancy Cohen, and looks to expand its purview and is seeking new members. If interested in joining this important Committee, please contact Christine Smith: cfs206@gmail.com

Photographs relating to Samuel Shoemaker



Portrait of Samuel Shoemaker, in bobwig, and his son, 1789, (1937). Creator: Unknown
Portrait of Samuel Shoemaker, Mayor of Philadelphia, in a bobwig, and his son, who wears his natural hair long on the shoulders, 1789, (1937). Samuel Shoemaker (1725-1800).



Shoemaker Telescope



Sam Shoemaker ephemera

Laurel Hill Mansion's Italian Honey Bees By Christine Mifsud

We all hope our Laurel Hill Italian Honey Bees* survive the upcoming winter chill. How will they do it?



When the interior temperature of the hives drops below 64°, bees cluster in a carefully organized ball. Interior bees generate warmth by vibrating their wings while outer bees remain relatively motionless acting as an insulation layer. The colder the temperature outside, the tighter the cluster. Honeybees take turns enjoying the warmth in the middle of the huddle, then rotate to the outside. The Queen Bee remains in the middle of the cluster all winter.



To encourage warmth and increase the bee survival rate, most of the LHM hives have been elevated by our beekeeper, Mr. Don Shump of philadelphiabee.com

Worker bees were busy all through the growing season collecting nectar to feed and maintain the colony until the warmth of spring returns. Hopefully they have stored enough!



*German Black Bees, now a rare stock, were brought to America in the 17th century by early European settlers and were favored by beekeepers in the northeastern colonies. German bees most likely thrived on LHM property in the 18th and 19th centuries.



SAMUEL SHOEMAKER'S HISTORIC COLONIAL TELESCOPE

A historic colonial telescope inscribed:

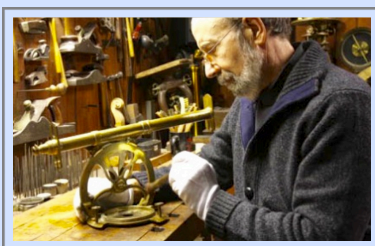
"Sam Shoemaker, Philadelphia 1754" was gifted to The Women of Greater Philadelphia, the stewards of Laurel Hill Mansion. The Mariners' telescope has been passed down the Samuel Shoemaker (1725-1800) family for generations of safekeeping, culminating with the bequest of the telescope by Francis Rawle Shoemaker (1921-2016). Francis Shoemaker was a direct

descendant of Edward Shoemaker (1770-1817), son of Sam Shoemaker and Rebecca Rawle. Francis served in the United States Army in World War II, attended UC Berkeley and was a professional electrical engineer. Mr. Francis Shoemaker's fascination with the Shoemaker family history dating back to the 1700's prompted his generous donation of the telescope to Laurel Hill Mansion.



Samuel Shoemaker, the original owner of the telescope, was a highly respected business man, merchant, lawyer, property owner, and local politician who served as both Councilman and later as Mayor of Philadelphia from 1769-1771. He was a loving husband to Rebecca Warner Rawle Shoemaker, and father to his sons Benjamin and Edward (with Rebecca) and to stepchildren William, Anna, and Margaret Rawle. During the British occupation of Philadelphia, Samuel, a Quaker and British Loyalist, served as Magistrate of Police. Later during the Revolutionary War, Samuel was forced into exile first to New York and then to London, England before returning to Philadelphia.

It is believed that Samuel Shoemaker used the telescope to observe merchant ships related to his business, coming in and out of the busy port of Colonial Philadelphia. The Mariner's telescope was in need of general restoration, repair, and specifically required fabrication of the objective end of the telescope and placement of an internal lens for display purposes.



Jeffrey Lock

It was incumbent upon WFGP to find a craftsman who would maintain the integrity and the historical value of this beautiful piece. The stewards engaged Master Colonial Instrument Craftsman, Jeffrey D. Lock, renowned restoration expert. His expertise focused on the artistically crafted instruments of the Colonial period. Jeffrey Lock has assisted many museum curators regarding the evaluation of the collections of 18th-century surveying instruments and has served as a science and technology appraiser for the popular PBS series Antiques Roadshow.

The restoration was time consuming and the replacement items had to be commensurate with the standards to which they adhered. Now that the refurbishing project has been completed by Mr. Lock, the telescope will be on permanent display in the Samuel Shoemaker office at Laurel Hill Mansion for viewing by the many visitors who pass through the doors.

By Nancy S Cohen, M.B.A., with research assistance from Anita McKelvey: historian and tour guide at Laurel Hill Mansion: authenticphiladelphia@gmail.com

Spotlight on Rebecca Warner Rawle Shoemaker by Kerry Bryan, M.Ed.

Rebecca Warner Rawle Shoemaker

(1734 - 1819)

Rebecca Rawle Shoemaker was a devout Quaker, wife, and mother of strong character who was wholly capable of handling her business affairs, including the design of her summer villa Laurel Hill, in which you are standing.

Her first husband, merchant Francis Rawle, purchased 30 acres of prime land overlooking the Schuylkill River here in 1760. Soon after, Francis died and left his estate to Rebecca, who became a young, wealthy widow with three children.

In 1767 Rebecca married Samuel Shoemaker, a successful Quaker merchant and Loyalist who was active in Philadelphia politics and civic affairs. In anticipation of their marriage, Rebecca oversaw the construction of an elegant Georgian country house which she named Laurel Hill.

During the American Revolution, Samuel Shoemaker was declared guilty of high treason by the Philadelphia City Council. When the British evacuated Philadelphia, Sam feared for his life and sailed with his stepson to New York City, and eventually to London. Rebecca remained in Philadelphia with her daughters. The Rawle/Shoemaker family endured years of separation and setbacks from 1778 to 1786. Laurel Hill, Rebecca's property, was taken from her and remained in limbo for several years until it was sold to a real estate speculator.

Rebecca refused to accept the loss of Laurel Hill. After four years of negotiations, she gained back the property in 1784. When The Shoemaker men returned home in 1786, thanks to Rebecca, the family could again enjoy summer days at Laurel Hill.



ABOVE: Rendering of the original section of Laurel Hill, as built by Rebecca Rawle. Two later additions form the house visitors see today.

Rebecca Rawle Shoemaker

ABOVE: Rebecca's signature, excerpted from her journals.

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL WINTER NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS!!!
WE LOVE HEARING FROM OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR
INFORMATION OR ARTICLE TO MEDIA@LAURELHILLMANSION.ORG

*Enjoy playing the Laurel Hill Mansion word search,
click to begin*

<https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/3149379>

SMOKIE KITTNER IS IN THE PROCESS OF REVAMPING THE LAUREL HILL MANSION WEBSITE, www.laurelhillmansion.org PLEASE EMAIL HER WITH YOUR IDEAS AT: MEDIA@LAURELHILLMANSION.ORG



Can you identify these WFGP
Members from the
1978 Holiday Tours?



Randolph Mansion 1869

Women for Greater Philadelphia, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation of volunteers. The goals are to promote and enhance the historical, philosophical, educational and cultural value of Greater Philadelphia and to maintain and preserve historic Laurel Hill Mansion.

WWW.WFGP.ORG